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FOR
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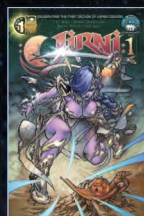
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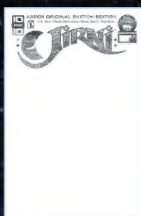




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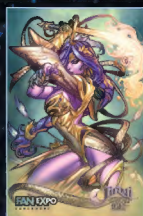
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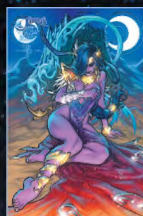
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One shadows and dust

Jirni created by J.T. Krul

Written by J.T. KRUL • Pencils by PAOLO PANTALENA

Colors by BRETT SMITH • Letters by JOSH REED

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JIRNI™ Vol. 1 Issue 1

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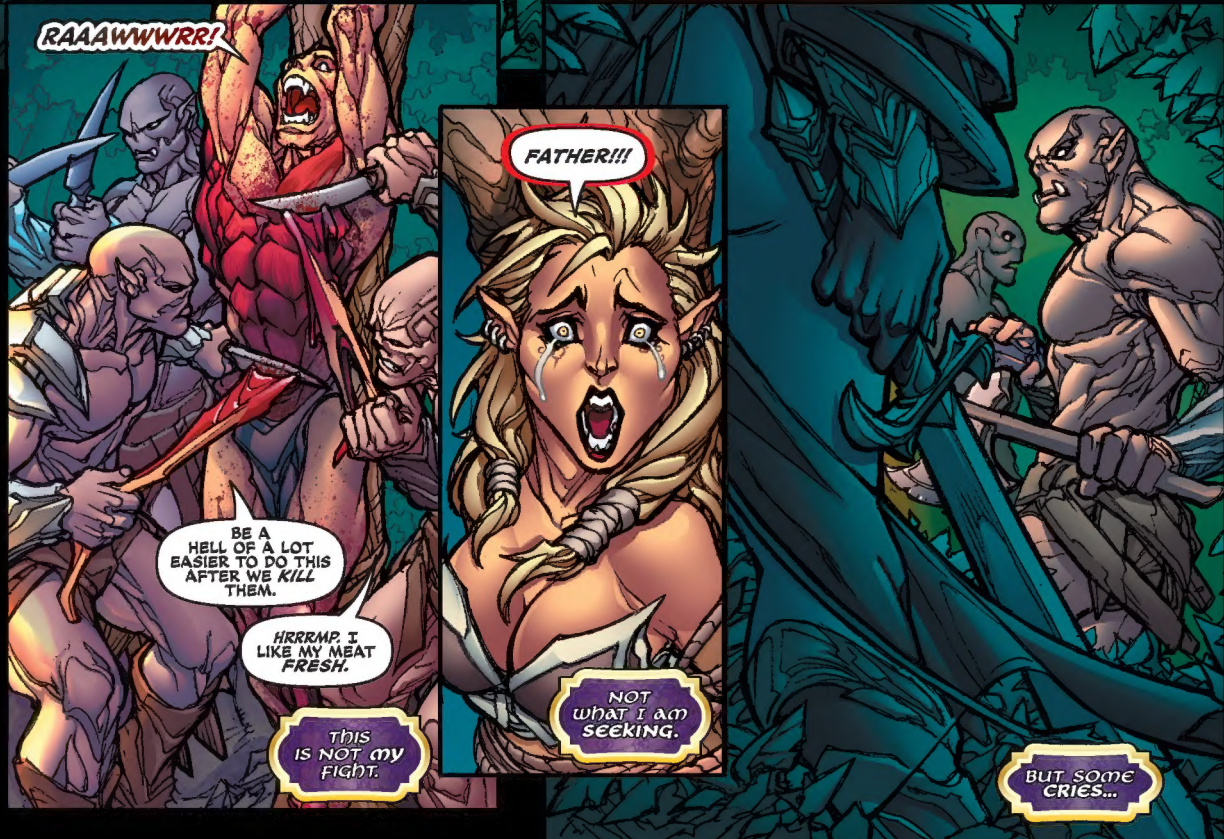
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IN MY QUEST, I HAVE DISCOVERED MANY TRUTHS ABOUT THIS WORLD. MOST BASIC AND UNDENIABLE IS THE FACT THAT THERE ARE ONLY TWO KINDS OF CREATURES.

**PREDATORS
AND PREY.**

THE TRICK
IS TO REALIZE WHICH
ONE YOU ARE, AND
LIVE-- AND DIE--
ACCORDINGLY.



FATHER!!!

BE A
HELL OF A LOT
EASIER TO DO THIS
AFTER WE KILL
THEM.

HRRMP. I
LIKE MY MEAT
FRESH.

THIS
IS NOT MY
FIGHT.

NOT
WHAT I AM
SEEKING.

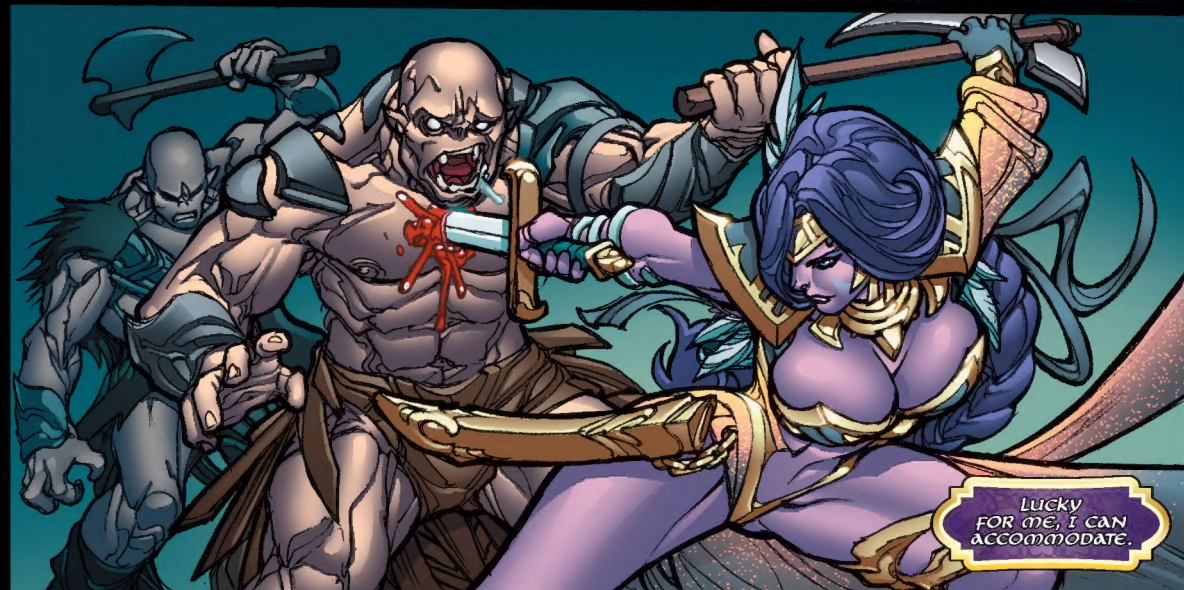
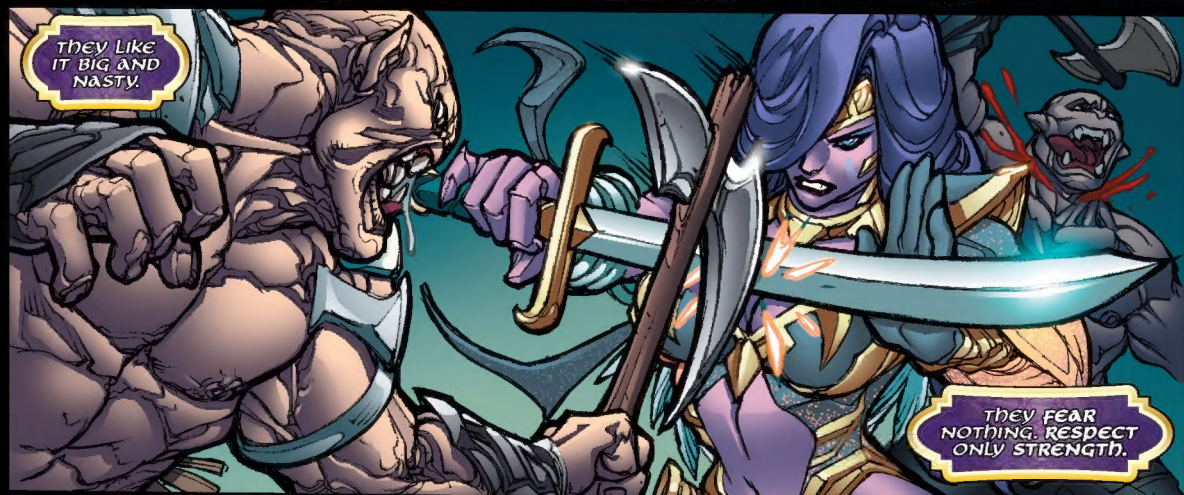
BUT SOME
CRIES...

...SOME CRIES
EVEN I CAN'T
IGNORE.

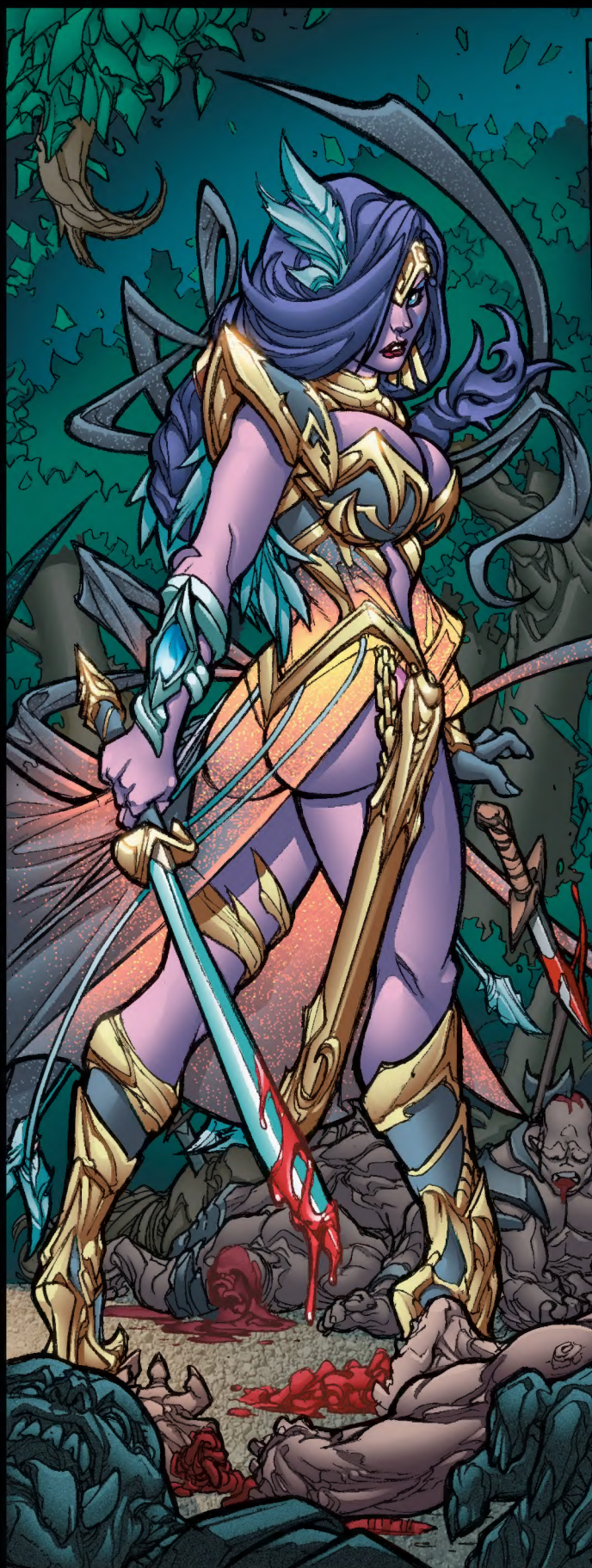


SHH

GET HER!

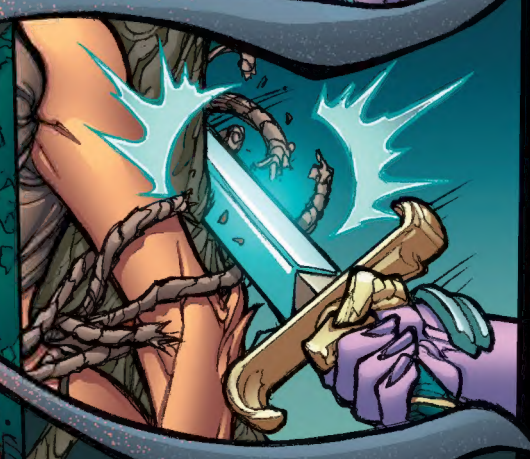




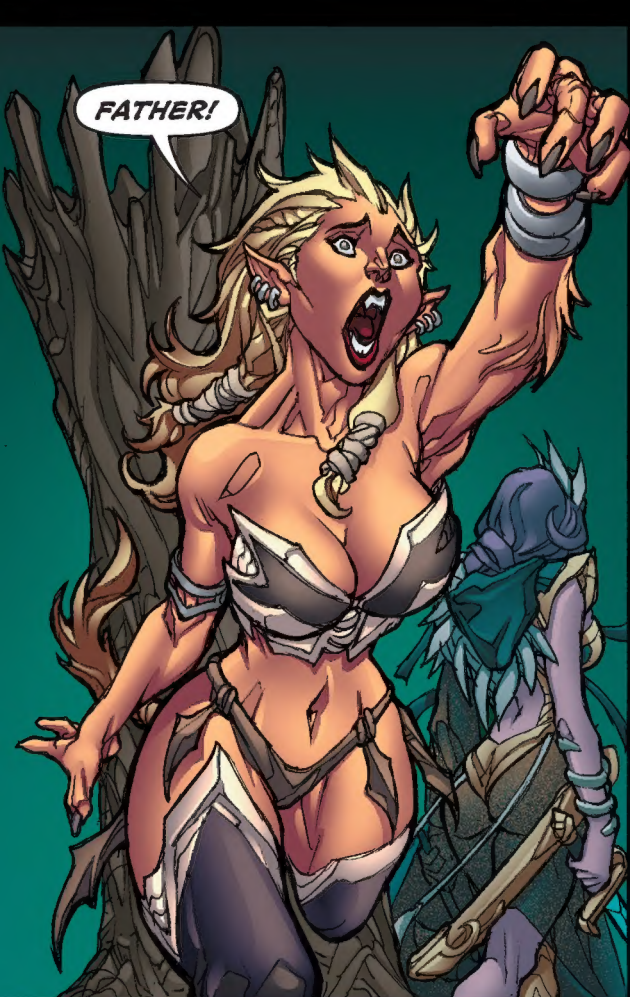


Y-YOU
KILLED THEM
ALL.

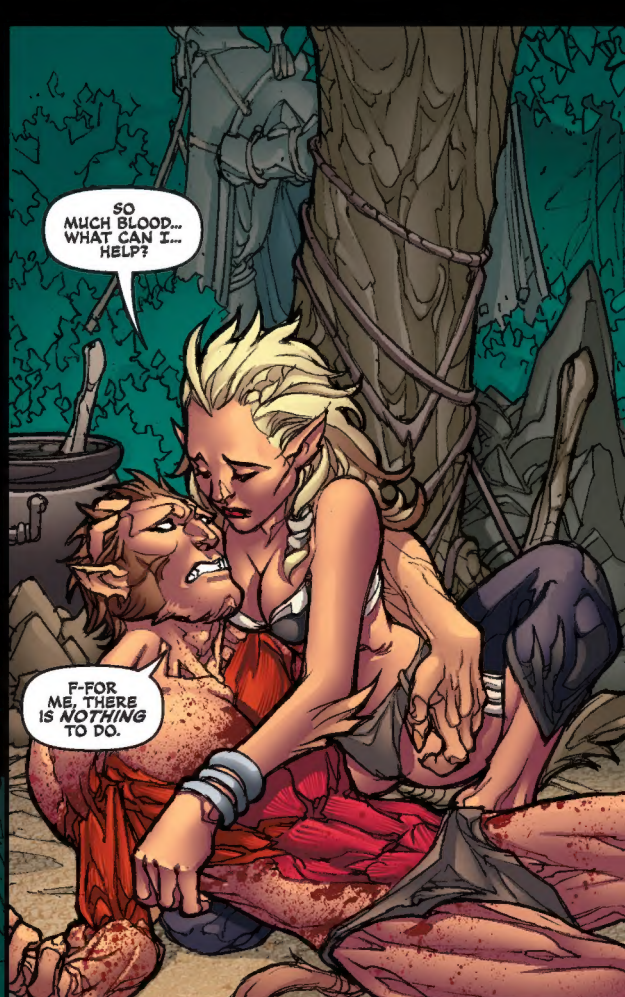
IS THAT
A PROBLEM
FOR YOU?



THE WORDS
YOU ARE SEARCHING
FOR ARE "THANK
YOU."



FATHER!



SO MUCH BLOOD...
WHAT CAN I...
HELP?

F-FOR
ME, THERE
IS NOTHING
TO DO.



YOU...
YOU MUST
CONTINUE ON. FIND
OUR PEOPLE. FIND
WHERE WE
BELONG.

THE
GREAT CITY?
BUT I DON'T EVEN
KNOW WHERE
IT IS.

TO THE EAST,
NYLESE, THAT IS
YOUR FUTURE.
THE EAST.



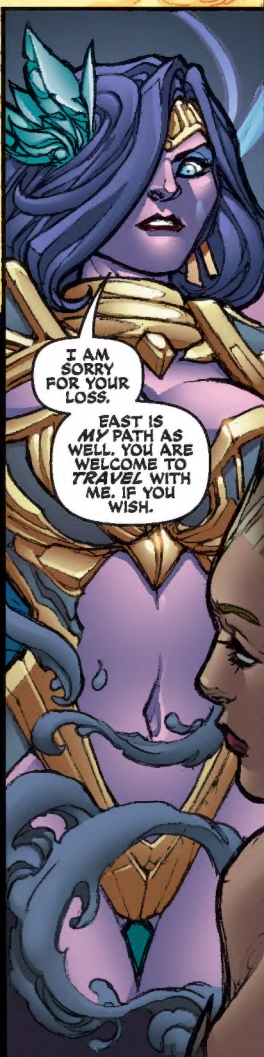
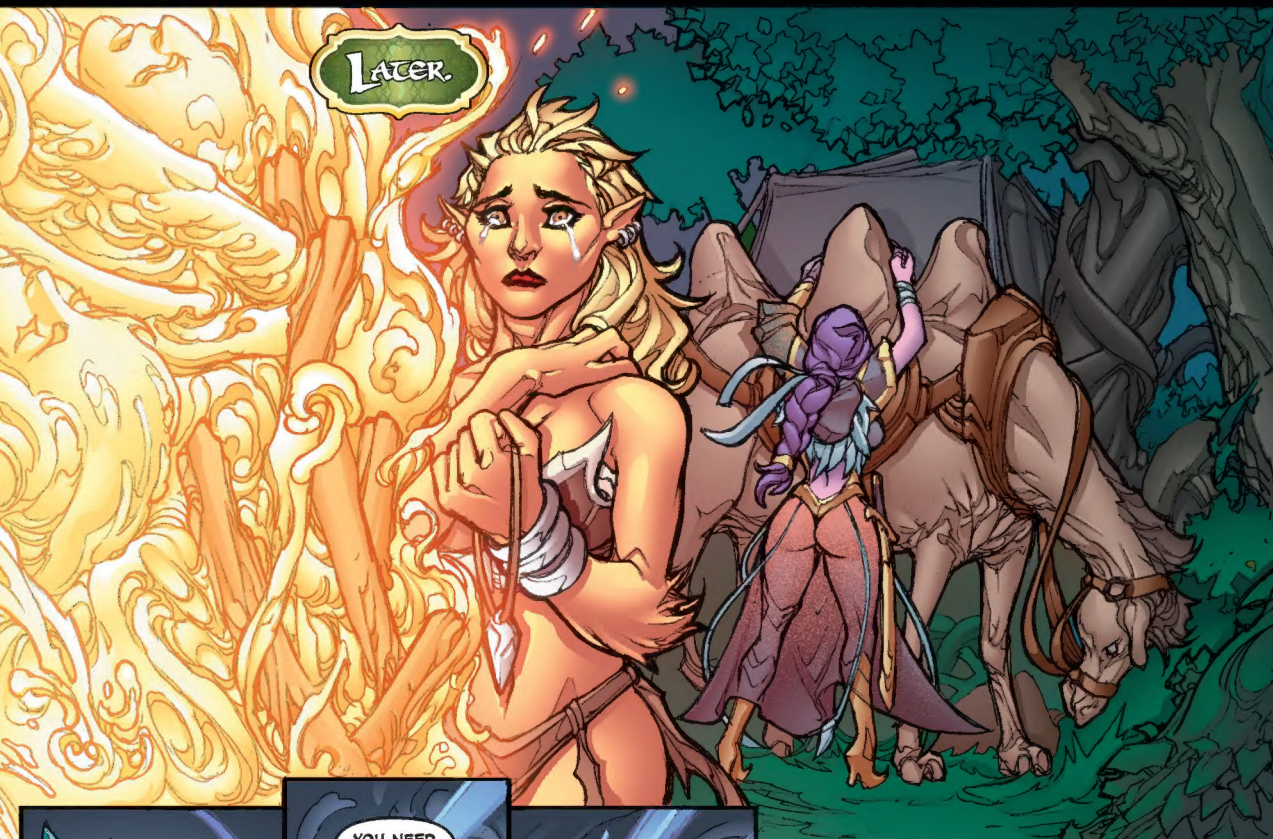
BE STRONG.
FOLLOW YOUR
HEART.

DEAR... SWEET...
CHILD...



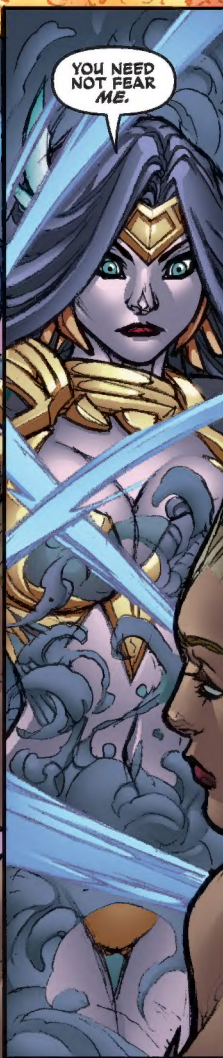
NOOOO!

LATER.

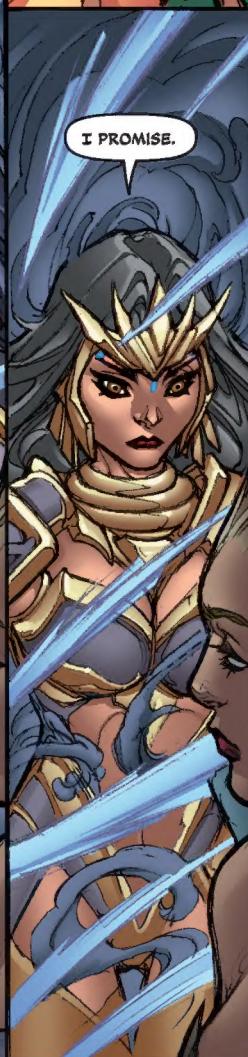


I AM
SORRY
FOR YOUR
LOSS.

EAST IS
MY PATH AS
WELL. YOU ARE
WELCOME TO
TRAVEL WITH
ME. IF YOU
WISH.



YOU NEED
NOT FEAR
ME.



I PROMISE.



W-WHO
ARE YOU?

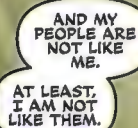
MY
NAME IS
ARA.



I'VE NEVER
SEEN ANYTHING
LIKE YOU BEFORE--
WITH HOW YOU CAN
CHANGE FORMS.
WHERE DO YOU
COME FROM?



MY
HOMELAND
OF JAVNA IS A
THOUSAND MILES
TO THE WEST, BEYOND
THE GREAT KURKIAN
MOUNTAINS, BUT I
HAVE NOT LAID EYES
ON MY KINGDOM FOR
QUITE SOME
TIME.



AND MY
PEOPLE ARE
NOT LIKE
ME.

AT LEAST,
I AM NOT
LIKE THEM.



WHAT
BRINGS
YOU SO FAR
FROM YOUR
HOMET



NOT A
WHAT. A
WHO.



A MAN,
A MONSTER
THAT RAVAGED
MY KINGDOM.



AND STOLE
SOMETHING
PRICELESS.



TREASURE?



YES.



MY MOTHER.

JANNA.

YEARS
EARLIER.

SLOW DOWN.
ARA. STAY
WITH ME.

YES,
MOTHER.

IF MY QUEEN
WOULD PERMIT ME...
A GIFT FOR THE PRINCESS
IN ANTICIPATION OF HER
COMING CELEBRATION.

A VARIETY
OF SPICES AND
INCENSE. MAY
THEY LIVE! YOUR
EVERY DAY.

MMMM.
SMELLS
DELICIOUS.

YOU
ARE TOO
KIND.

NO, MY QUEEN
LUNA. IT IS MY
HONOR.

SOME OF
THESE I DON'T
RECOGNIZE FROM
THE ROYAL
KITCHEN.

AH, I AM
PLEASED TO BRING
SOMETHING NEW FOR
YOU. THERE IS A BIT OF
COCHORA ROOT FOUND
BEYOND THE KURKIAN
MOUNTAINS. GOOD FOR
TEAS AND BAKING.

AND LAVANDRIA
IS A FLOWER KNOWN
ONLY TO GROW IN THE
FAR-AWAY FORESTS OF
TAGARON. A HEAVENLY
SCENT FOR A SPECIAL
OCCASION.

THE FORESTS
OF TAGARON...
AMAZING.



I SEE YOU
ARE ENJOYING
YOUR GIFT.



VERY MUCH.

BUT I WISH
I COULD SEE THE
OTHER LANDS THAT
FEATURE SUCH
WONDERS...

...EXPERIENCE
MORE OF OUR
WORLD.

ALL I
KNOW IS OUR
KINGDOM.



YOU ARE A *RESILIENT*
AND *DETERMINED* CHILD,
ARA. I HAVE NO DOUBT
YOU WILL ONE DAY EXPLORE
EVERYTHING YOUR HEART
DESIRES.

WHY CAN'T
SOMEDAY BE
TODAY?

DON'T BE IN
TOO MUCH OF A
HURRY TO GROW UP.
CAN YOU NOT BE MY
DAUGHTER FOR A
LITTLE LONGER?



HERE, I HAVE
SOMETHING FOR
YOU AS WELL.

AN
ARMAND--
MOTHER... IT'S
BEAUTIFUL... BUT
MY BIRTHDAY IS
STILL DAYS
AWAY.

I AM AWARE.
I WAS THERE, TOO.
REMEMBER?

AND NO DOUBT
YOUR FATHER HAS
A TREASURE TROVE TO
BESTOW UPON YOU, BUT
I WANTED TO GIVE
YOU THIS MYSELF.



WEAR IT
ALWAYS AND
KNOW THAT I
WILL BE WITH
YOU.

Now.

THE SONORI
DESERT.



WHAT'S A
BLOATED FIEND
LIKE YOU DOING
WAY OUT HERE?

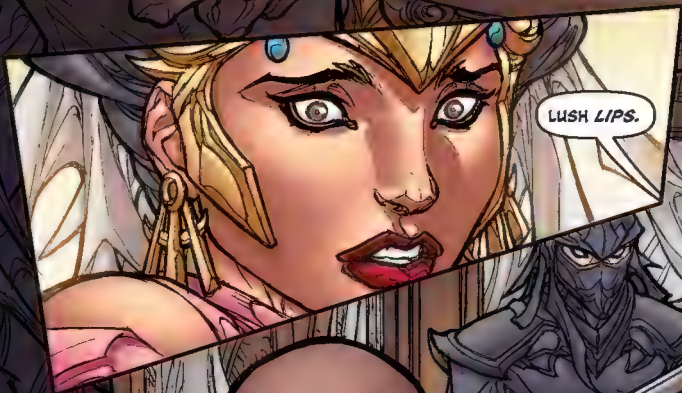
I ASK
MYSELF THAT SAME
QUESTION.

I HOPE YOU GOT
MORE THAN **FOOD**
STOWED AWAY BACK
THERE. FOR **YOUR**
SAKE.

THERE'S
NOTHING YOU'LL
WANT.

TRUST ME.







I'M AFRAID
THAT WON'T
COVER IT, NOT
NEARLY.

WE'LL BE TAKING
IT ALL, PERHAPS
EVEN YOUR HEAD,
YOU POMPUS
BASTARD.

VERY WELL, IN
THAT CASE, MIGHT
I SUGGEST YOU
START WITH--

--THIS.

ONE OF
MY MOST PRIZED
POSSESSIONS.

DON'T BE
DISTRACTED BY
THE SHINY EXTERIOR.
BEHOLD-- THE REAL
TREASURE LIES
WITHIN.

RUN YOU
FOOLS!



"OH, I AM AFRAID
IT IS TOO LATE FOR
THAT, MY DEAR."

LOOK!

I... DON'T
BELIEVE IT.
IT'S A
D'JINN!

"DIDN'T THINK
THEY REALLY EXISTED,
DID YOU?"

YOU WERE
WARNED.

THWAAAA





I DO NO SUCH THING.

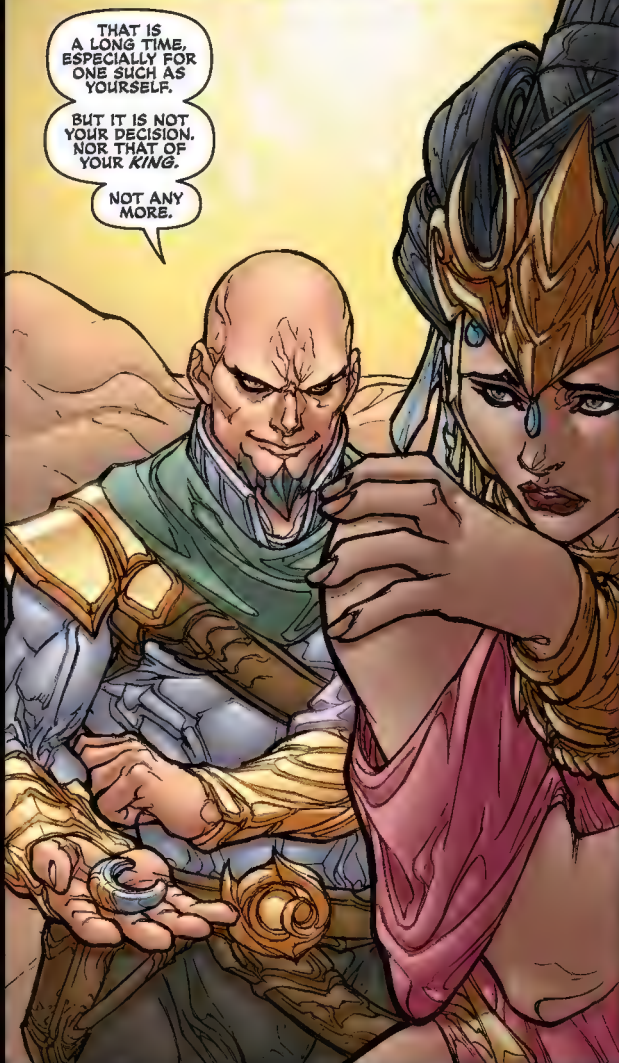
ANJIAHA KNOWS HIS FATE IS TIED TO ME. AS IS YOURS, LUNA.



YOU D'JINN HAVE TREMENDOUS WILLPOWER.

BUT I BROKE HIS SPIRIT. EVENTUALLY I SHALL BREAK YOURS AS WELL.

NEVER.



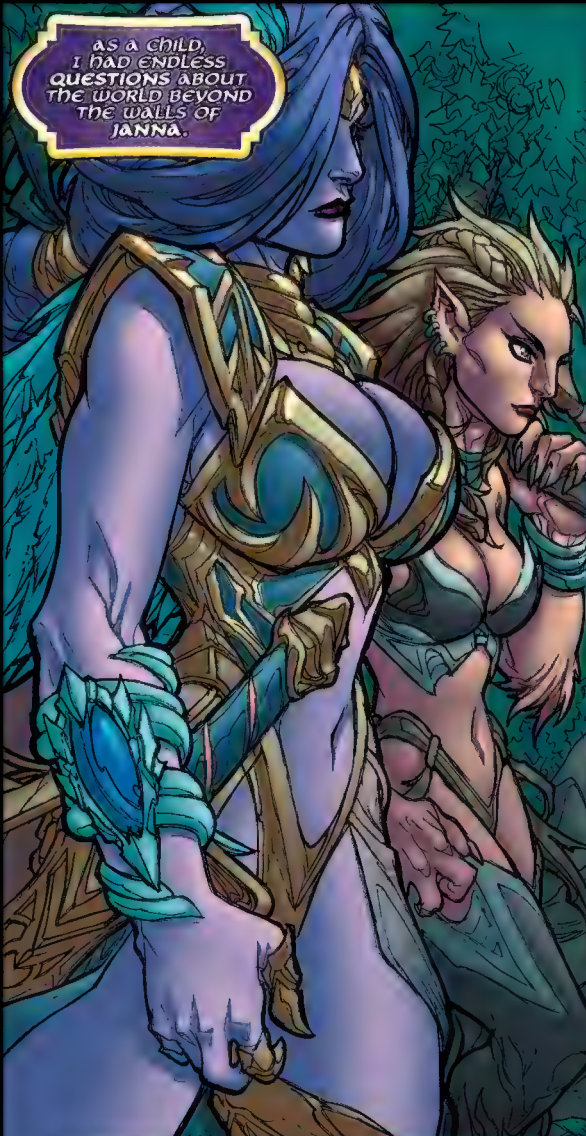
THAT IS A LONG TIME, ESPECIALLY FOR ONE SUCH AS YOURSELF.

BUT IT IS NOT YOUR DECISION. NOR THAT OF YOUR KING.

NOT ANY MORE.



YOUR POWER... YOUR SOUL... EVERYTHING YOU ARE...
...BELONGS TO ME, NOW.



AS A CHILD,
I HAD ENDLESS
QUESTIONS ABOUT
THE WORLD BEYOND
THE WALLS OF
JANNA.



ABOUT THE
LANDS, ABOUT THE
PEOPLE, ABOUT
EVERYTHING.

NOW THOUGH,
AS MY JOURNEY TAKES
ME FARTHER AND FARTHER
INTO THE UNKNOWN, OTHER
QUESTIONS PLAGUE
MY MIND.



WHERE
IS MY MOTHER?
WILL I EVER
FIND HER?

IS SHE
DEAD?



WITH EACH
STEP, THE MYSTERY
SURROUNDING HER
AND MYSELF
THICKENS.

WHY DID
THAT SORCERER
TAKE HER?

WHO
AM I? WHAT
AM I?

AND
WHY DIDN'T
MY MOTHER
TELL ME?



THE ANSWERS
TO ALL MY QUESTIONS
ARE OUT THERE.

I ONLY
HOPE I HAVE THE
COURAGE TO FACE
THEM WHEN THE
TIME COMES.

TO BE CONTINUED.

Jirni

◆ By J.T. Krul

A NEW WORLD OF FANTASY

Essentially, Jirni is my love letter to all things fantasy - Lord of the Rings, Conan, Flash Gordon, Dungeons and Dragons, the Dark Tower series, and basically anything Frank Frazetta ever created. It's a rousing adventure tale, chronicling an epic quest that is about self-discovery as much as it's about anything.

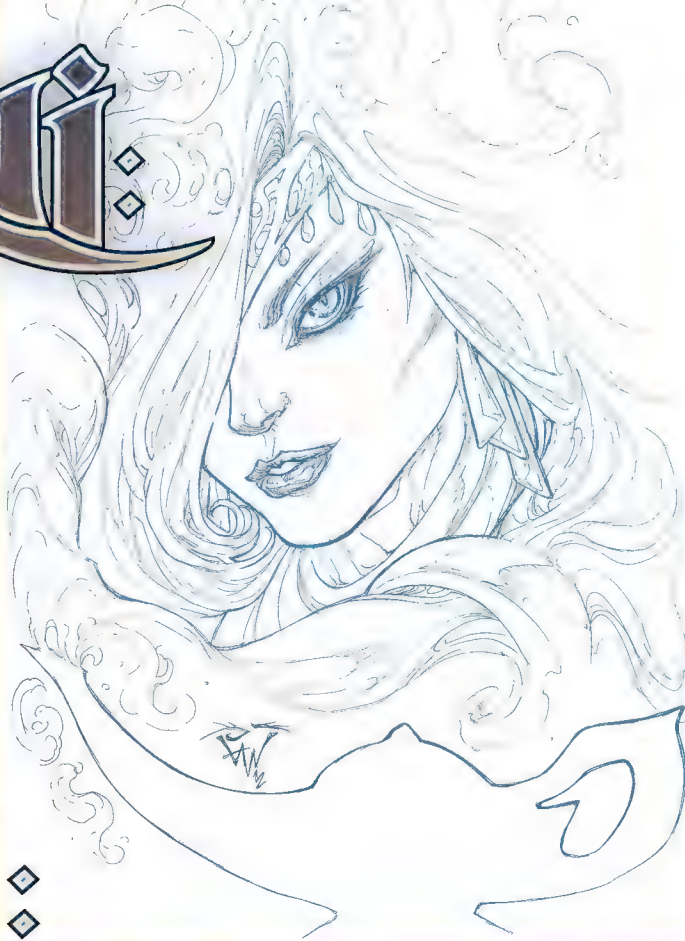
The title of the book is obviously a play on the word journey. But, it's more than that. It's a philosophy of sorts - calling for us to accept life as it comes, both the good and the bad, because everything that happens is part of a larger narrative that shapes and molds us into who we are. I know that I have learned far more from my failures and mistakes than I have from my successes. As they say, in many ways the journey is the destination.

For this story in particular, I have keyed into Arabian mythology and the fable of the genie of the lamp. It's a little different than what you might expect. It's not exactly Aladdin, but you'll see things that call to mind the classic story. But, the world of Jirni is grand and immense and the genie (or d'jinn) aspect is just one part of it.

As much as my love of fantasy inspired the book, there was another force beyond the scenes that played almost as big an influence. Michael Turner. As Frank and Peter and the guys started talking about the big plans for Aspen's 10th anniversary, I knew I wanted to be involved, but a big part of the discussion was about making sure that all the books encapsulated Mike's spirit. As I continued to develop the story, I thought a lot about Mike and what he would have liked - what would have gotten him excited about the book. He was an incredible artist in every respect and shined most designing new and unbelievably awesome characters, ships, creatures, environments...you name it. So, I knew Jirni had to bring all that to the forefront. Dynamic characters we could really sink our teeth into, a world as rich and beautiful as it was deadly, and creatures ripped from our imaginations designed to instill a sense of wonder or adventure or horror. Jirni has everything. And we are extremely lucky to have Paolo Pantelana bringing it all to life.

About Paolo

One of Aspen's greatest strengths is their eye for talent when it comes to artists. With Paolo, we found the absolute perfect candidate for the project. We've seen his stuff before and thought Jirni would be right up his alley. And proof came quickly with the very first character design he did for Ara, which he nailed on his first try. He's got tremendous talent and it's obvious with each and everything he's turned in. Part of being a good comic writer is picking the right artist and simply letting them work their magic. Jirni is giving Paolo a wide berth in terms of being able to create a whole range of characters and creatures. I consider myself extremely lucky to have him on the book.



Ara

A princess of the kingdom Janna, Ara is the daughter of the king and queen—Kenaq and Luna. Her life is one of bliss and leisure, experiencing all that is good and wondrous in her kingdom. Famine, crime, disease - all of life's miseries are kept from her as she lives securely in her bubble. But all that comes crashing down when Janna is attacked and the queen is taken by a shadowy sorcerer named Torinthal. In the aftermath, Ara makes a startling discovery as her body changes into a fierce warrior form. She ventures out into the world she has never known, determined to find her mother and return the queen to the people of Janna. But, she also hopes to find answers about herself. Who and what she is.

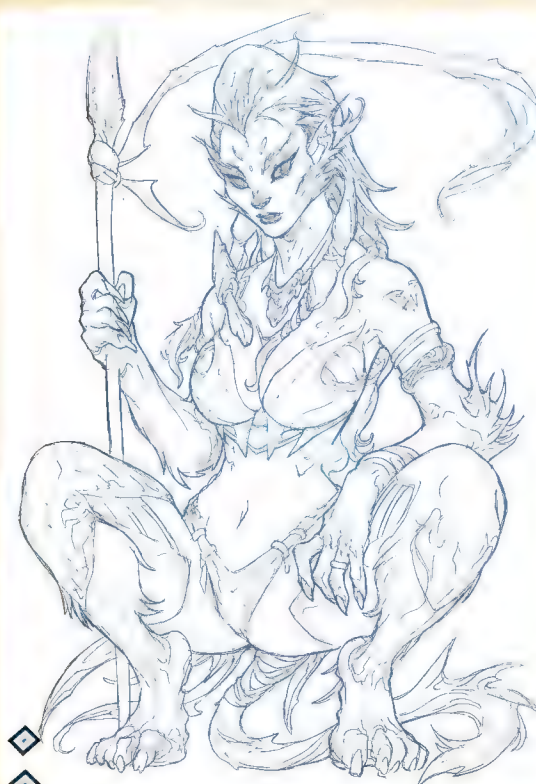
Luna

Ara's mother and queen of Janna, Luna is a vision of beauty and grace. She helps her husband rule with honor and compassion. She is incredibly protective of Ara, doing everything she can to shield her from any sense of danger. For this reason, Ara has lived a rather sheltered life. As for Luna, she has her own secret that relates to both her daughter's strange abilities and the reason why Torinthal wants her. It's something she's tried to hide for a long time, but now the truth seems destined to come out.

Torinthal

A mysterious figure, Torinthal is a sorcerer without a kingdom, who allies himself with those best equipped to help him achieve his goals. But what exactly those are is unknown. Clever and cunning, Torinthal is a master of misdirection and manipulation - twisting words and deeds to suit his needs. In many ways, it feels like this is Torinthal's world, and everyone else is just a pawn.

Expect to see these and even more intriguing characters within the pages of Jirni!



Anjaha

In this world, Anjaha is a mythic d'jinn (or genie). Trapped within his vessel, he serves his master, Torinthal. While not capable of literally "granting wishes," they can use their incredible abilities to do the bidding of their masters. Immensely strong and virtually immortal, they can change their density to become hard as rock or become intangible, turning into a smoky form when desired. Each d'jinn has a unique vessel that exists as their prison. As long as a person holds that vessel in their possession, they can control the d'jinn.

Nylese

Nylese is a member of a nomadic tribe of Ontinae - a feline race in the world of Jirni. She is strong, but she is also young - not quite a warrior, but she will do what is necessary to survive. Her destiny brings her into contact with Ara, and the two travel the vast landscape of the world together - each searching for their own prize. For Nylese, it's to find the fabled city of her people. Above all else, she wants a home.

LET THE JIRNI BEGIN

I'm having an absolute blast on this project. Ara is proving to be a strong and resilient yet vulnerable character. I can't wait to explore more of this world with her. So, join us - because this Jirni is just beginning!

Sketches by series artist, Paolo Pantelana.

#2 **FOR**
10
COVER A

J. T. KRUL • PAOLO PANTALENA
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Jirni



#2 **10**
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10
COVER B

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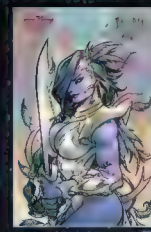


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shadow of a doubt

Jirni created by J. T. Krul

Written by **J.T. KRUL** • Pencils by **PAOLO PANTALENA**

Colors by **BRETT SMITH** • Letters by **JOSH REED**

The determined princess has departed the kingdom of Jaxxon in the hope of restoring her mother, the honorable Queen Luna, from the clutches of the power hungry warlord Tormenthal. Along the way, she would discover a roving band of the beastly Hruggees decimating the Omtuwa, a nomadic tribe inhabiting the land outside Jaxxon. Using her ability to transform into a warrior of awe-inspiring strength and resolve, she saved one of them, Nyviese, but not before she witnessed her father killed before her eyes. Now the pair have set off in search of answers, their journey has begun.

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THE KILKAN PLAINS.



ARA, TELL ME ABOUT YOUR KINGDOM. WHAT WAS IT CALLED AGAIN?

JANNA. IT IS LIKE ANY OTHER KINGDOM I SUPPOSE, NYLESE.

I HAVE BEEN ROAMING THE WILDERNESS ALL MY LIFE. I KNOW NOTHING BEYOND OUR NOMADIC VILLAGES.

NEITHER DO I.

I HAVE NEVER SEEN A CITY-- GREAT OR OTHERWISE. OR KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BELONG TO SUCH A PLACE-- TO HAVE A TRUE HOME.

NOT ANYMORE.

JANNA.

YEARS
EARLIER.

RAAAWWWR?

MY LORD
KENAQ! THAT
CREATURE IS
TOO STRONG.
WE MUST PULL
BACK!

I'LL NOT
HIDE FROM *GRAIM*
AND HIS FORCES-- NO
MATTER WHAT *DEVILRY*
HE HAS ENLISTED
THIS TIME.

WE WILL
PROTECT
JANNA...

"...AND HER QUEEN."

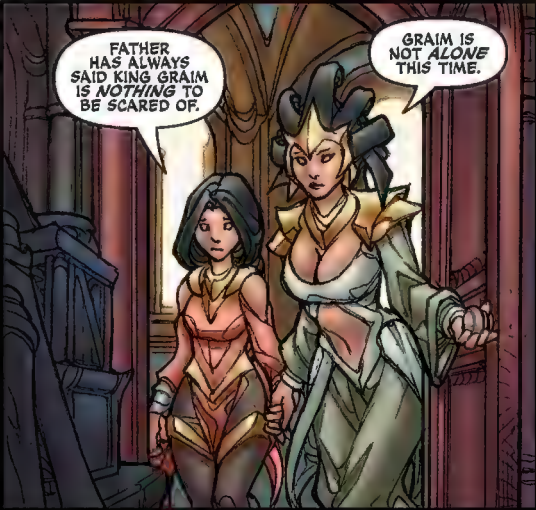
MOTHER, WHAT IS HAPPENING OUT THERE?

WAR, MY CHILD. WAR IS HAPPENING.
COME, ARA. THIS WAY.



FATHER HAS ALWAYS SAID KING GRAIM IS NOTHING TO BE SCARED OF.

GRAIM IS NOT ALONE THIS TIME.



LISTEN TO ME. YOU ARE SAFE, ARA. NO DANGER WILL COME TO YOU IN HERE, I PROMISE THAT.

BUT YOU NEED TO HELP ME. NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, YOU MUST STAY IN THIS ROOM.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND?



YES. BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?



I'M GOING TO DO WHAT I ALWAYS DO.

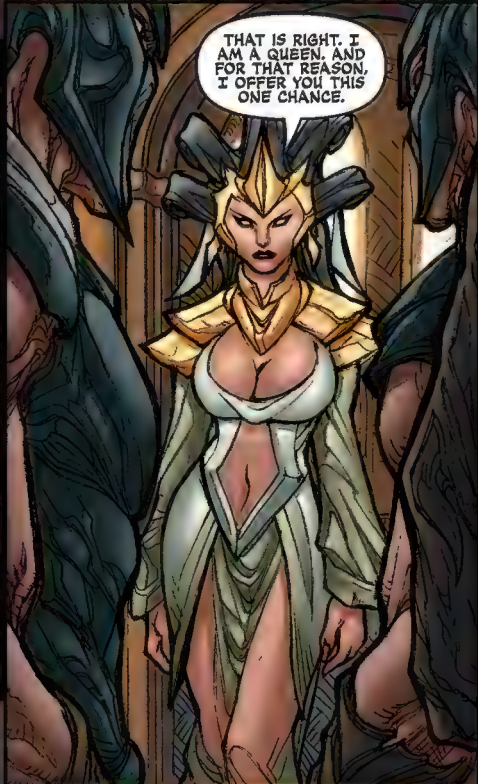
PROTECT YOU.





CLICK

THERE! THE QUEEN!



THAT IS RIGHT. I AM A QUEEN. AND FOR THAT REASON, I OFFER YOU THIS ONE CHANCE.



LEAVE NOW. NEVER RETURN.



IT APPEARS YOU HAVE WHOLLY EMBRACED THIS LIFESTYLE HERE, HAVEN'T YOU?

STILL-- ONE CANNOT CHANGE WHO THEY ARE, OR WHERE THEY CAME FROM.

NO...



YOU SHOULD HAVE GUARDED YOUR VESSEL MORE CLOSELY, LUNA.

AHHHH!



YOU AND YOUR KING MAY CLAIM THE REST OF JANNA.

I HAVE MY PRIZE.



MOTHER!

RIIP



WHAT HAVE WE HERE? THE PRINCESS?



I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHALL FETCH A HIGHER PRICE. HER TREASURES OR HER FLESH?



That was the first day terror filled my heart.

AHHH! IT BURNS!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ME?!

N-NOTHING.



The sensation did not last long.

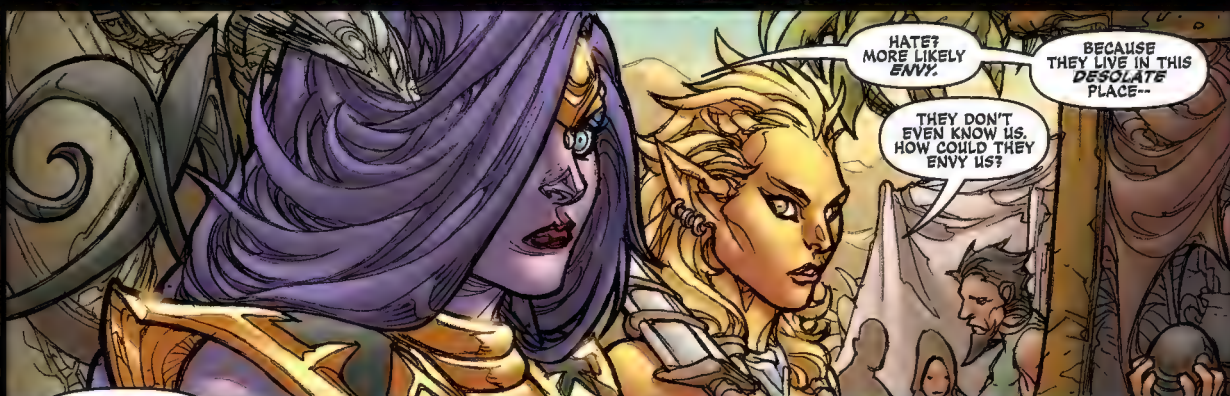
BUT THE FEAR DID NOT MELT away...

...IT HARDENED.

I HARDENED.

AND MY
ATTACKERS--
THEY DIED.







WELCOME, TRAVELERS. OR WOULD THAT BE IF WE HAD ANY COMFORT TO OFFER. SADLY, OUR VILLAGE IS BUT A *SHADOW* OF ITS FORMER SELF.

WHAT HAPPENED?



THEY CALL ME *TALIS*. ONCE I WAS A POWERFUL *SEER*. MANY CAME SEEKING MY WISDOM AND *FORESIGHT*.

THROUGH ME, OUR VILLAGE *THRIVED*. UNTIL I LOST MY CHILD.

BARELY BORN, IT FELL INTO THE EARTH, *SWALLOWED* UP BY THE *ABYSS*. AND THAT DARKNESS SPREAD TO ME, *BLINDING* ME FROM MY *VISIONS*.

NOW THE WELL THAT ONCE *NOURISHED* OUR FAMILIES BRINGS ONLY *MISERY*.



I CAN STILL HEAR HER *CRIES*, FAINT LIKE A *GHOST*. BUT SHE REMAINS *LOST* TO ME.

MANY MEN HAVE GONE AFTER HER, HOPING HER RETURN WOULD BRING BACK MY POWERS. BUT NONE HAVE RETURNED. *EVER*.

MAYBE, IT'S NOT A MAN YOU NEED.



IF YOU CAN HELP ME, YOU MUST! I AM *DESPERATE*! *DESPERATE* FOR MY CHILD!

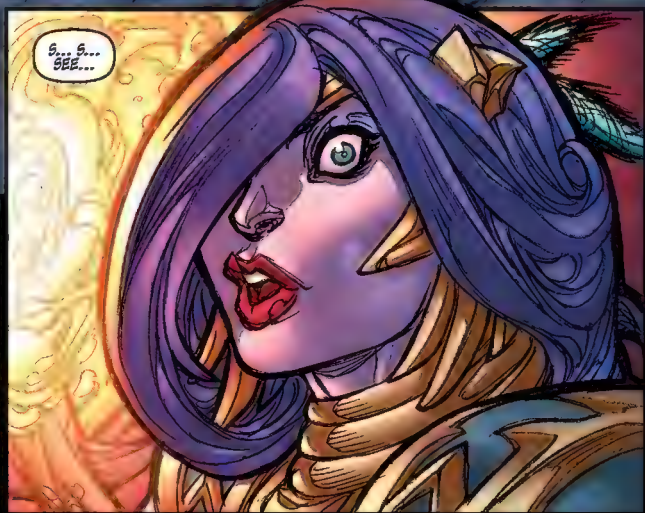
I COULD SHOW YOU A WAY FORWARD, PLEASE. HELP ME SO THAT I MAY HELP YOU.



YOU CANNOT MEAN TO GO DOWN THERE, ARA. IT REEKS OF *DEATH*.

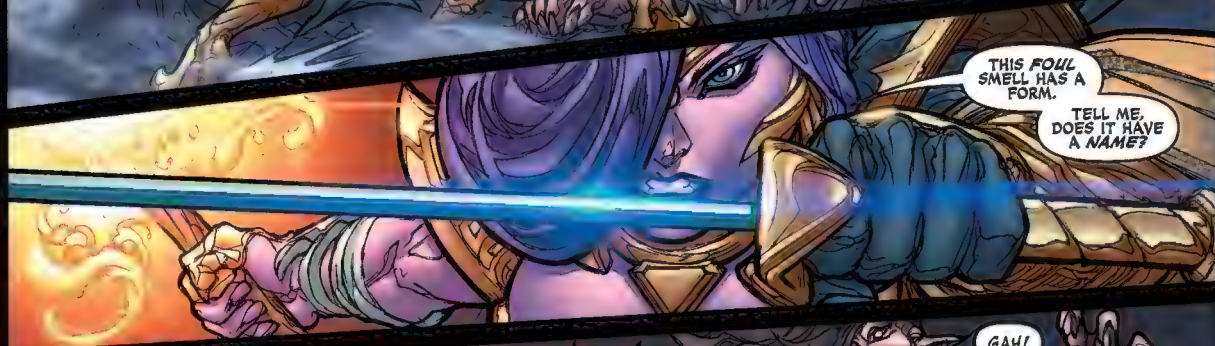
YOU KNOW THE WAY TO YOUR PEOPLE, NYLESE. THE PATH TO MY MOTHER *TWISTS* IN THE WIND. BENDING AND CHANGING.

IF THE WAY TO THE *LIGHT* IS THROUGH THE *DARKNESS*...



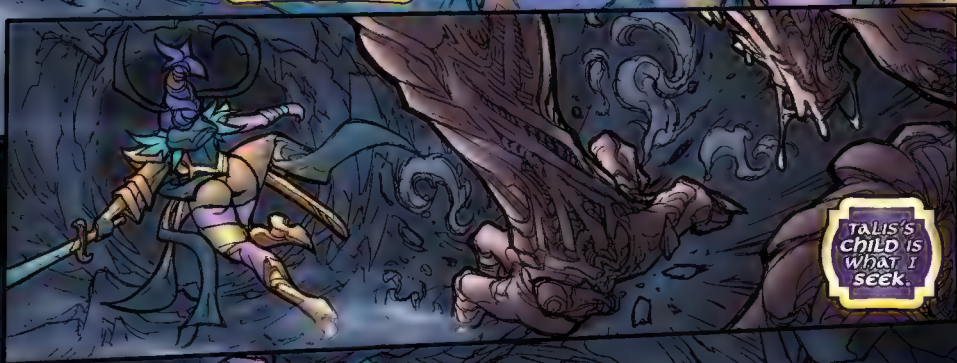
I...
SEE...
YOU.







THIS CREATURE
MEANS NOTHING TO
ME. IT IS MERELY
AN OBSTACLE.



TALIS'S
CHILD IS
WHAT I
SEEK.



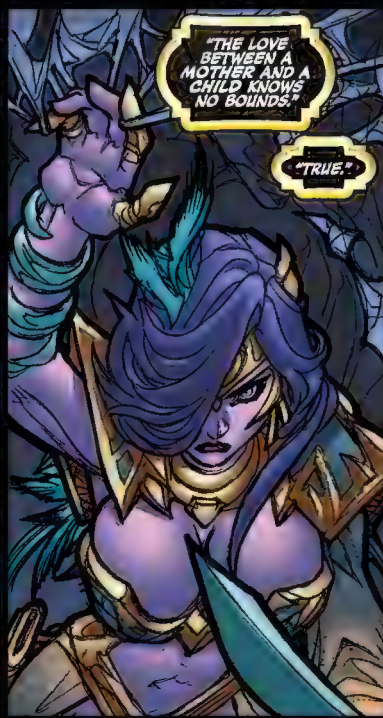
THOUGH I FAIL TO SEE
HOW ANYTHING COULD
SURVIVE DOWN HERE
WITH THAT THING.



I FEAR
HER FATE SHALL
BE THE SAME AS
THE OTHERS.

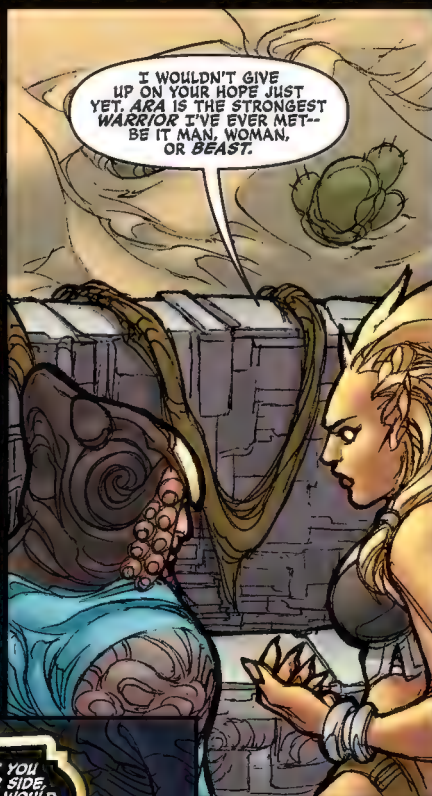
THEN
WHY DID
YOU ASK HER
TO GO DOWN
THERE?

HOW
COULD I
NOT?



"THE LOVE
BETWEEN A
MOTHER AND A
CHILD KNOWS
NO BOUNDS."

"TRUE."



I WOULDN'T GIVE
UP ON YOUR HOPE JUST
YET. ARA IS THE STRONGEST
WARRIOR I'VE EVER MET--
BE IT MAN, WOMAN,
OR BEAST.



"PERHAPS IF YOU
WERE AT HER SIDE,
HER DESTINY WOULD
MORE ASSUREDLY
BE REALIZED."

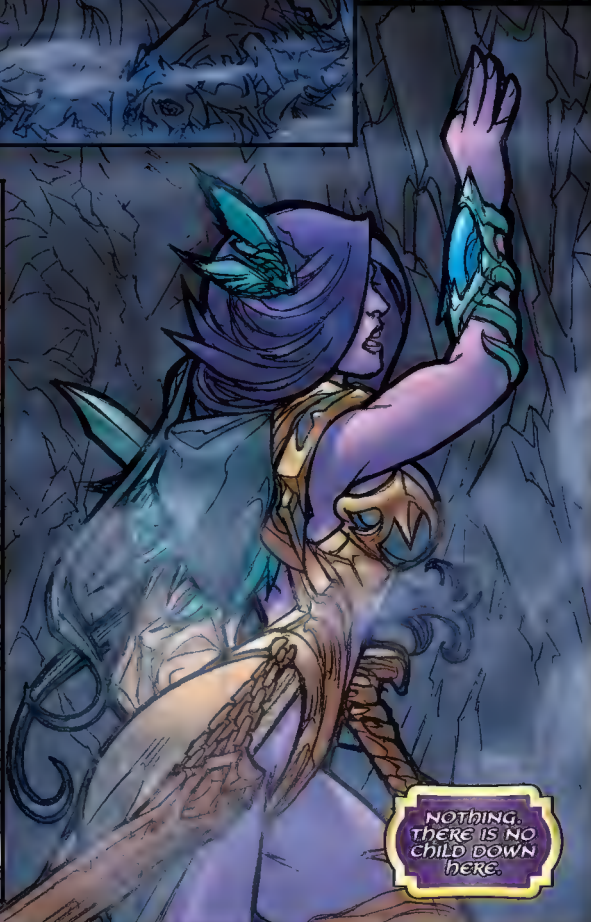


ARE YOU
SPEAKING WITH
FORESIGHT NOW,
WOMAN?

AH, IF ONLY. BUT
I CANNOT CLAIM ANY
SUCH VISION. MERELY
MY OBSERVATION.

EVEN THE
MIGHTIEST NEED
HELP FROM TIME
TO TIME--

--ESPECIALLY
WHEN FACING A GREAT
UNKNOWN.



NOTHING.
THERE IS NO
CHILD DOWN
HERE.



YOU
CANNOT
HIDE.



NOT
FROM ME.
NOT DOWN
HERE.



IF ANYONE IS
HIDING ANYTHING,
IT IS YOU.

WHERE IS THE
CHILD YOU STOLE
AWAY???



IS SHE
NOTHING BUT
BONES AMONGST
YOUR OTHER
VICTIMS?

HER BONES
ARE INSIDE ME,
AS WELL AS HER
FLESH... AND
BLOOD.



YOU...
...YOU
ARE THE
CHILD.



TALIS IS YOUR MOTHER.

SHE DOESN'T SEND OTHERS DOWN TO RESCUE YOU. SHE SENDS US TO FEED YOU.



HER FORESIGHT WAS LOST BECAUSE OF YOU. BECAUSE YOU HAVE HER EYE.

AAAAHHH!



WELL-- NOT ANYMORE!



AAAAHHH!



NO, NO, NO...

TALIS?? WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?

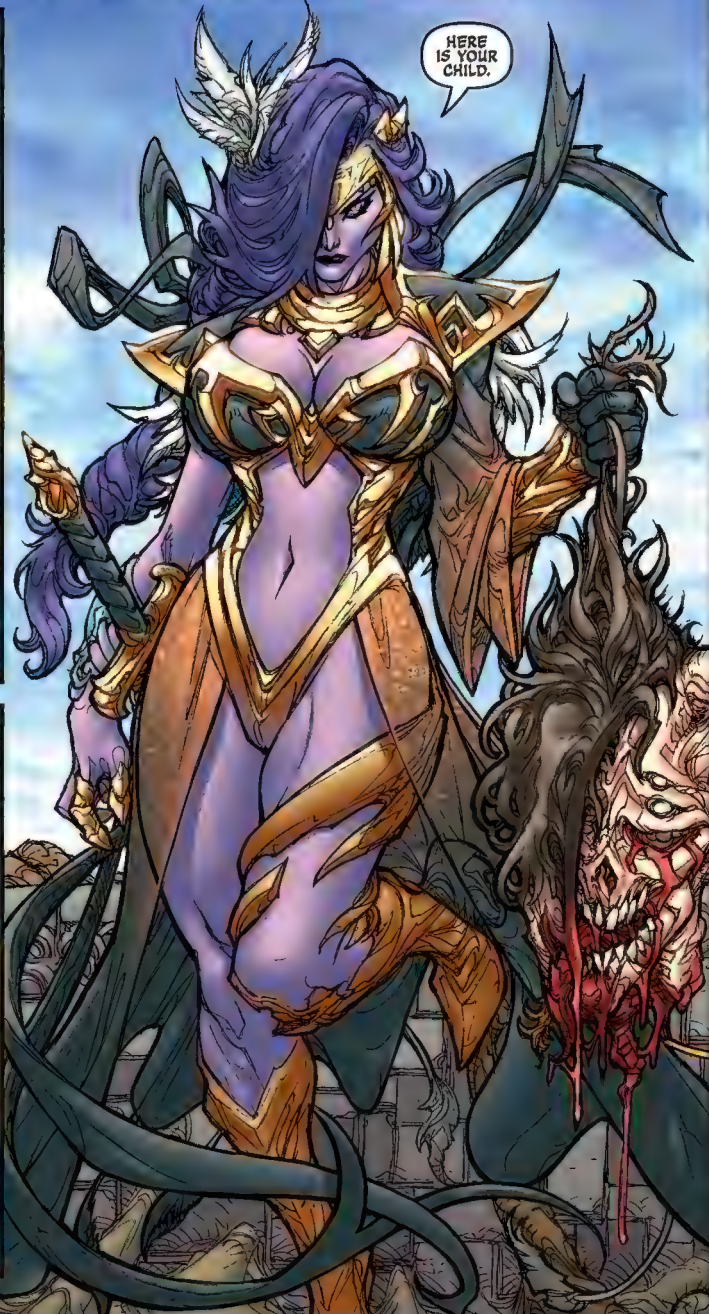
DON'T WANT TO SEE! NOT THIS!

IS IT ARA? DO YOU SEE HER? IS SHE OKAY?



I AM FINE, NYLESE.

AS FOR YOU, TALIS-- I HAVE DONE AS YOU ASKED.



HERE IS YOUR CHILD.



SHE
WAS MY *BABY*.
MONSTROUS TO
YOU, BUT STILL
MINE.

I DID
WHAT I HAD
TO DO. WHAT
ANY MOTHER
WOULD DO?

AND *SACRIFICED*
INNOCENT LIVES IN THE
PROCESS.



INNOCENT?
THEY ALL CAME WITH
LUST AND *GREED* IN
THEIR HEARTS. SEEKING
TREASURE AND
GLORY.

JUST AS
MUCH BLOOD WAS
ON THEIR HANDS
AS WELL.



YOU BEST HOLD UP
YOUR END OF OUR BARGAIN,
UNLESS YOU WANT TO MEET
THE SAME FATE AS YOUR
ABOMINATION.

SHOW ME--
SHOW ME WHAT
I SEEK.



YOU...
YOU HAVE MORE
QUESTIONS THAN YOU
WOULD ADMIT. SO MUCH
UNKNOWN. SO MUCH
MYSTERY.

"YOUR MOTHER,
YES, SHE WAS TAKEN
FROM YOU.

"HER LOCATION
WANES. SHE IS ON HER
OWN JOURNEY.

"SHE IS BOUND TO
ANOTHER, THOUGH NOT
BY LOVE OR HONOR.
SOMETHING ELSE.

"SHE IS
NOT WHAT SHE
SEEMS.

"BUT THEN
YOU KNOW THAT,
DON'T YOU, ARA?
BECAUSE NEITHER
ARE YOU.

"YOU MAY FIND
WHAT YOU SEEK,
OR IT MAY FIND
YOU."

ELSEWHERE.

COME, LUNA.
YOU CAN DO IT.
SHOW ME. SHOW
ME YOUR TRUE
FORM.

N...NO.

I CAN FEEL YOUR
WILLPOWER WAVERING.
WITH EACH COMMAND, YOUR
RESISTANCE IS DIMINISHED.
IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF
TIME BEFORE I--

WHAT?

I SENSE SOMETHING.
EYES UPON US. SOMEONE
OUT THERE IS SEARCHING
FOR YOU, YOUR PRECIOUS
KING, PERHAPS?

DARE I
SAY-- LIKE HER
MOTHER.

I AM
NOT ONE FOR
OBEYING OTHERS,
BUT I KNOW
WHO IS.

LEAVE HER
ALONE!

NO, THIS IS
STRONGER.

A
BEAUTIFUL
SPIRIT.

ANJAH...
I HAVE A TASK
FOR YOU.

YES,
MASTER.



ARA,
WHAT DID THAT
OLD HAG SHOW
YOU?

I SAW MY
MOTHER AND
THE MAN WHO
TOOK HER.
BUT MORE.



A STRANGE CREATURE
OF SMOKE THAT SEEMS
SOMEHOW FAMILIAR.



ARE YOU
JUST GOING TO
LEAVE TALIS? AFTER
WHAT SHE DID
TO YOU?

OUR
AGREEMENT HAS
BEEN *FULFILLED*.
WE BOTH DID OUR
PART.



BESIDES, THE
ENTIRE *VILLAGE* PAID
THE PRICE FOR HER *CURSED*
CHILD. IF ANYONE IS IN NEED
OF RETRIBUTION--



--IT IS THEM.

TO BE CONTINUED.

#3 10 FEB 10
COVER A

T.C. KIRK • PAOLO D'AVANZURA
BRIAN SALT • JOHN REED



Jirni



2013
Relief

#3
COVER B

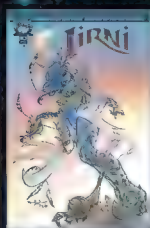
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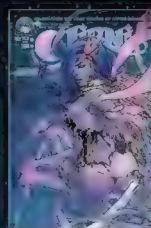


QIPNI

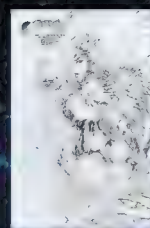




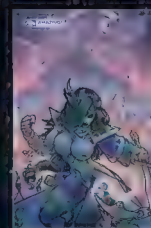
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Three fallen angels

Jirni created by J.T. Krul
Written by **J.T. KRUL** • Pencils by **PAOLO PANTALENA**
Colored by **BRETT SMITH, BETH SOTELO, WES HARTMAN** • Letters by **JOSH REED**

The determined Princess Ara along with her companion Sylphs recover the horrors of their past while trekking forward across a strange and deadly land. Their journey takes them to a desolate edge where they encountered to aid Tala—an elderly woman in search of her lost child in the dark expanse of a deep well. However, Ara quickly discovered the child was so innocent, but a creature of devouring principle, one that she made sure would never escape the darkness. Meanwhile Toriathal, in possession of the Queen's Lust, summoned Anapha—his powerful and deadly Djinn, in order to search for Ara...

Editors: VINCE HERNANDEZ, FRANK MASTROMAURO • Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD, JOSH REED

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—PLACED INTO
THE HANDS OF
ANOTHER.





WARWYK MAY HAVE USED ME TO BECOME KING, BUT HE WAS AN HONORABLE MAN.



DURING HIS MANY BATTLES, I DID WHAT I COULD TO KEEP HIM SAFE, ALWAYS IN SECRET.

HE NEVER TOLD ANYONE ABOUT ME, AND HE NEVER ASKED ME TO KILL FOR HIM.



EVERYTHING WARWYK DID WAS FOR HIS PEOPLE... SO THAT JANINA MIGHT FLOURISH.

TO HIM, I WASN'T A SLAVE OR AN OBJECT HE POSSESSED. I WAS A BLESSING, ANGELIC AND CELESTIAL.



HE CAME TO UNDERSTAND MY BURDEN AND MY OWN DESIRE-- FOR FREEDOM.



BUT WARWYK HAD ONE FINAL REQUEST, ONE LAST WISH TO FULFILL, SO THAT HE COULD DIE IN PEACE.



HE ASKED ME TO LOOK OVER HIS BEAUTIFUL SON, KENAG.

Now.

Veris.

BUT THAT
WAS ANOTHER
TIME.



ANOTHER PLACE.



ANOTHER MASTER.

WHERE ARE
WE?

THIS IS VERIS--
CONSIDERED BY MOST THE
GREATEST CITY IN ALL THE
LANDS. THE LAST BASTION
OF CIVILIZATION BEFORE
ENDLESS DESERT.

NOT
GREAT FOR
ALL.

DO NOT
WEEP FOR THOSE
WHO TAKE ONLY WHAT
THIS WORLD GIVES THEM.
THEY DESERVE THEIR
SQUALOR.



SOME OF US MAKE
OUR OWN DESTINY.

TORINTHAL!
WHERE HAVE YOU
BEEN THESE PAST
MONTHS?!

ATTENDING TO
MY NEEDS.

YOUR
NEEDS? AS ONE
OF MY ADVISORS,
YOU SHOULD BE MORE
CONCERNED WITH
MY NEEDS.

I DO
NOT SERVE
YOU, DESSIN.
YOU SHOULD SIMPLY
APPRECIATE WHEN
OUR GOALS ARE
MUTUAL.

MY GOOD
FORTUNE IS YOUR
GOOD FORTUNE. MY
TROUBLES, YOUR
TROUBLES.

IS THAT
YOUR VEILED
ATTEMPT TO
THREATEN
ME?

BY THE GODS,
NO!

PLEASE, TORINTHAL--
THE SOUTHERN ROAD
GROWS THICK WITH BLOOD.
KING HARGOO IS FEELING
BOLD AGAIN. I NEED TO
DISCOURAGE HIM.

I NEED THE
D'JINN.

YOU
MEAN, MY
D'JINN. AND HE
IS RESOLVING
ANOTHER
MATTER.

A FAMILY
MATTER. WOULDN'T
YOU SAY, LUNA?

I THOUGHT MY
SECRET DIED WITH
WARWYK, BUT TORINTHAL
SOMEHOW FOUND ME.

HE ATTACKED
JANNA, STOLE ME AWAY
FROM MY BELOVED
KENAQ, AND NOW--





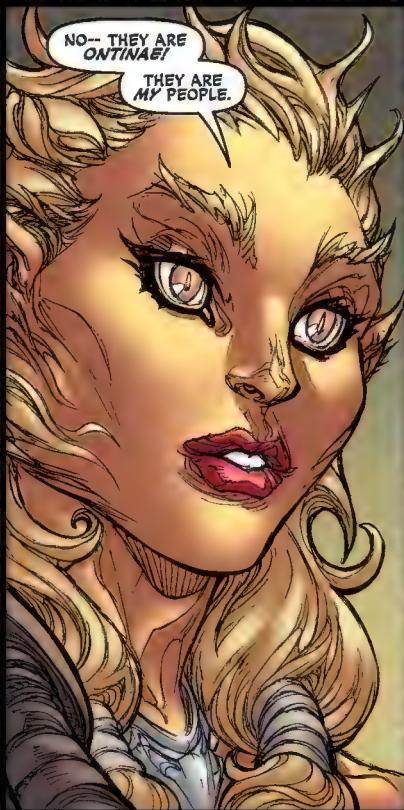
SHOW YOURSELVES! NOW!

OR YOUR BLOOD SHALL BE YOUR MARKER.



ARA!

I SEE, YOU TAKE THE TALL ONE WITH THE SPEAR. I SHALL HANDLE THE REST.



NO-- THEY ARE ONTINAE!
THEY ARE MY PEOPLE.



I AM RANLIR, WHO ARE YOU?

MY NAME IS NYLESE. I SET OUT WITH MY TRIBE TO FIND THE ONTINAE CITY, BUT I AM ALL THAT REMAINS.
PLEASE, TELL ME, AM I CLOSE?



VERY CLOSE, CHILD.



MAY
I PRESENT TO
YOU, NYLESE OF
THE WEST.

NYLESE--
THIS IS
NORDAK,
KING OF
BREENE.





NYLESE IS NOT ROYALTY, SHE IS JUST ANOTHER ONE LIKE THEM. STILL, HER ARRIVAL FILLS THEM ALL WITH EXCITEMENT.



IT BRIGHTENS THE ENTIRE CITY.

IT'S EXACTLY WHAT MY KINGDOM NEEDS.



WHEN I LEFT JANNA, THE PEOPLE WERE DISTRAUGHT AND DEFEATED.

WE MANAGED TO SAVE THE KINGDOM-- PHYSICALLY, BUT ITS SPIRIT WAS SHATTERED.



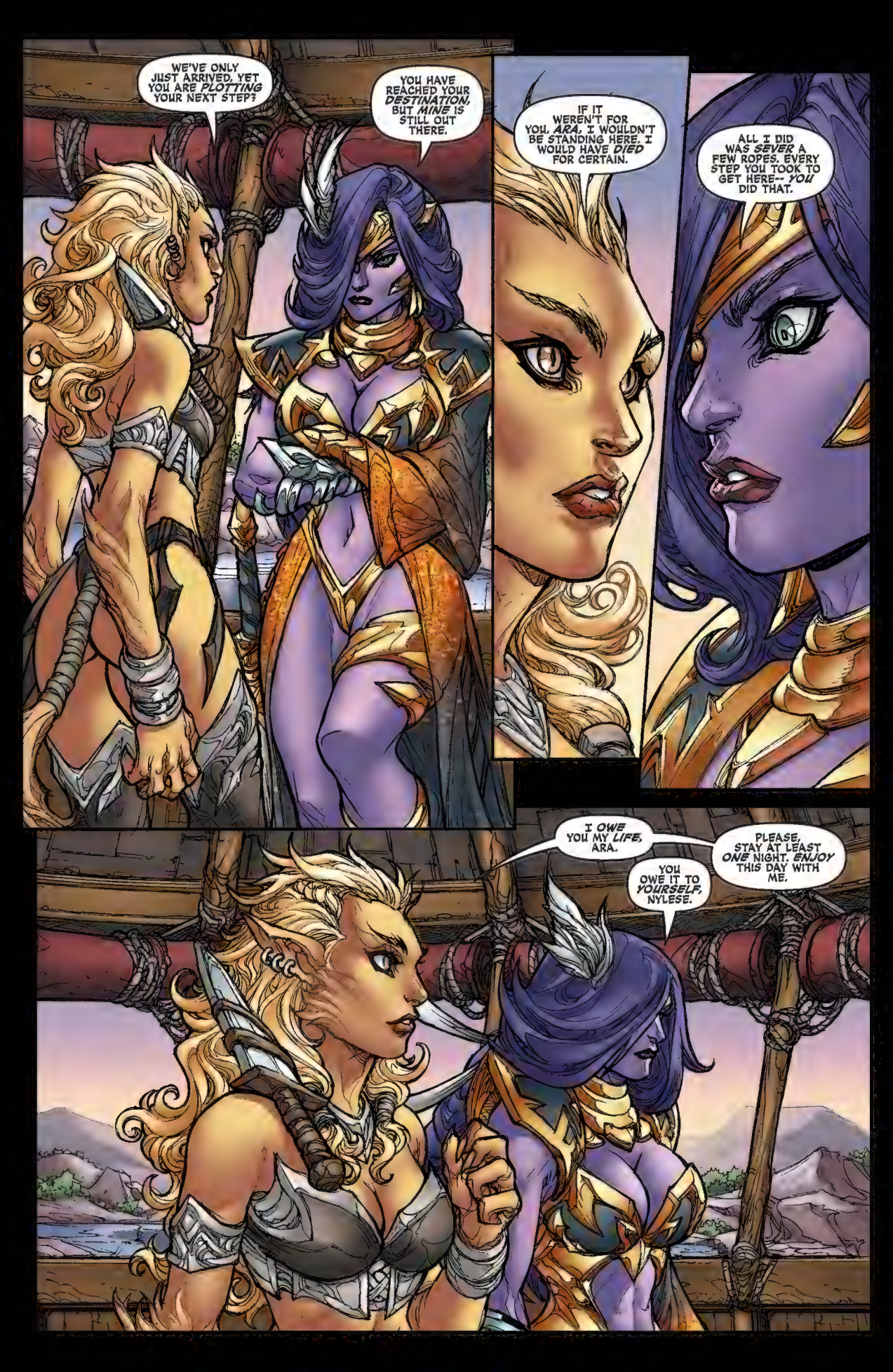
MY FATHER LOST HIS HAND, BUT HE DIDN'T MISS IT.

HE YEARNED FOR WHAT THEY ALL WANTED--

--THEIR QUEEN.



LEAVING SO SOON?



WE'VE ONLY JUST ARRIVED, YET YOU ARE PLOTTING YOUR NEXT STEP?

YOU HAVE REACHED YOUR DESTINATION, BUT *MINE* IS STILL OUT THERE.

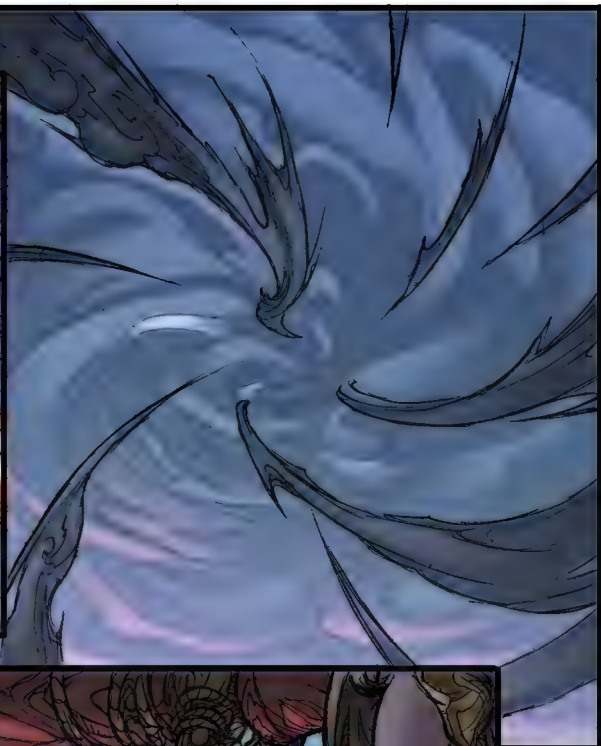
IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU, *ARA*, I WOULDN'T BE STANDING HERE. I WOULD HAVE *DIED* FOR CERTAIN.

ALL I DID WAS *SEVER* A FEW ROPES. EVERY STEP YOU TOOK TO GET HERE— YOU DID THAT.

I OWE YOU MY LIFE, *ARA*.

YOU OWE IT TO YOURSELF, *NYLESE*.

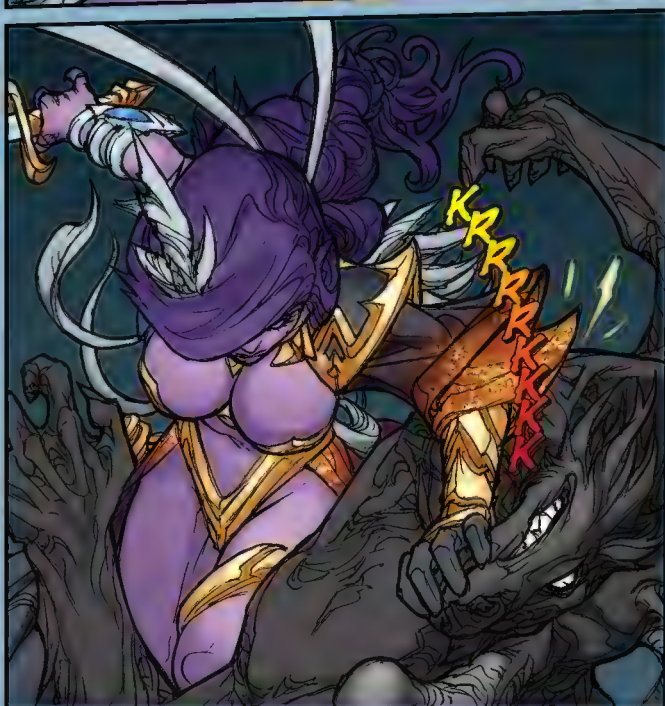
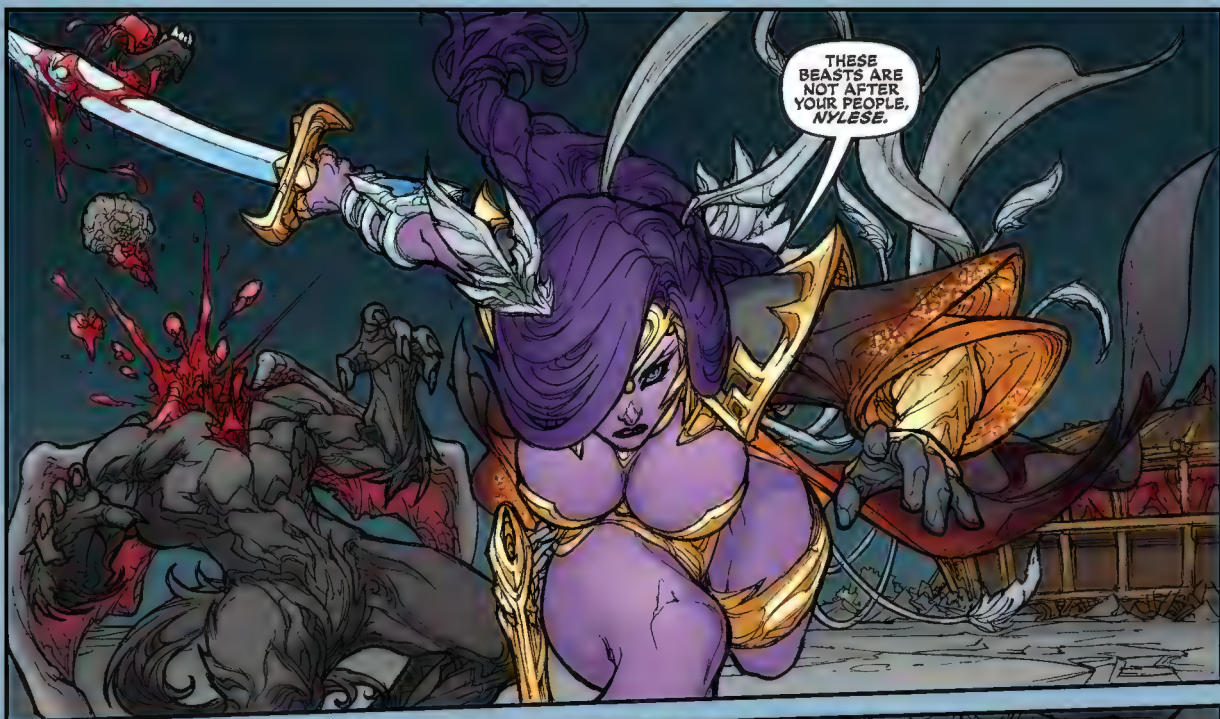
PLEASE, STAY AT LEAST *ONE* NIGHT. ENJOY THIS DAY WITH ME.

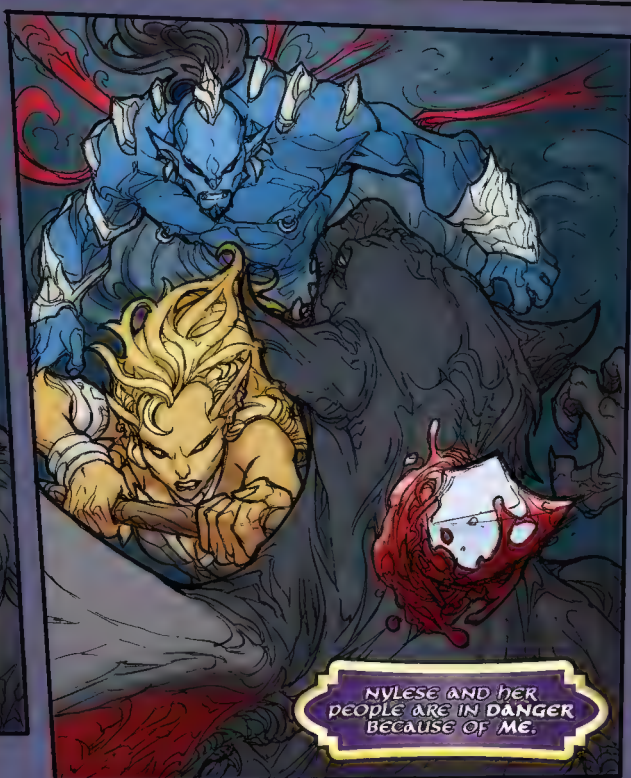


--BUT NOT
A NATURAL
ONE.









I MUST
CHANGE
THAT.

IF I
AM YOUR TARGET,
DON'T WASTE TIME
WITH HER.

RAAWRRRR!

YOU
ARE BIG, BUT NOT
IMPERVIOUS.

GGGRRR!

DON'T HIDE
BEHIND YOUR
SORCERY.

FACE ME.

NNNNNN!



RAAWRRRR--

VESSEL...

YOU...
HAVE...
...VESSEL?

WHAT
DID YOU
SAY?

THEN I SEE.

SEE WHAT A
VESSEL MEANS
TO HIM.

TORTURE.

BONDAGE.

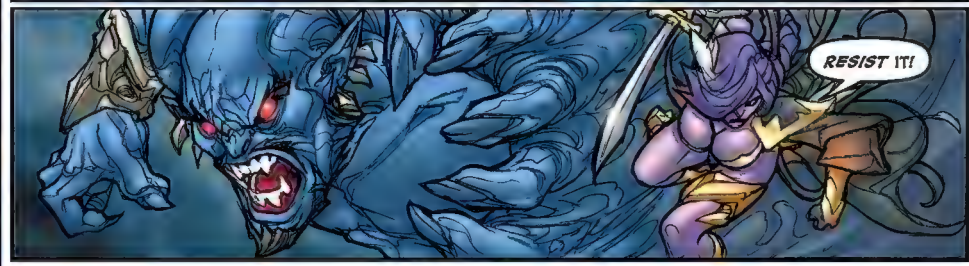
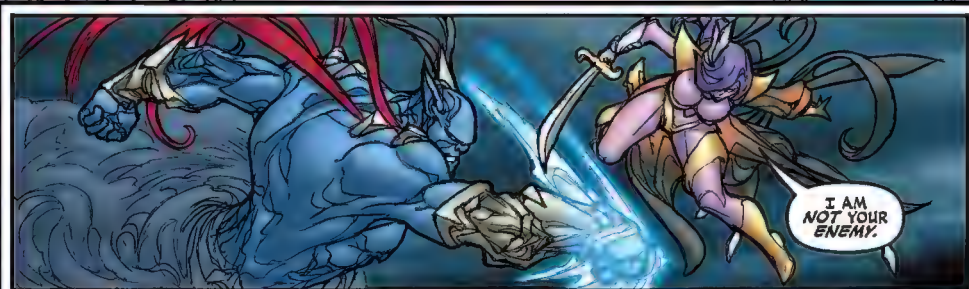
SERVITUDE.

CHAINS
STRETCHING TO A
DISTANT CITY, MORE
MAGNIFICENT THAN
ANYTHING I'VE
SEEN BEFORE.

THIS BEAST IS
MERELY A SLAVE TO
THE MAN THAT STOLE
MY MOTHER AWAY.

TORMENTED.
DRIVEN TO...

OBEY.



RRRAWWRRR!



TO BE CONTINUED.

#4

10
FOR
10

COVER A

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WIRNI



#4
COVER B

10
FOR
10

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Jirni



#4
COVER C

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QIRNI



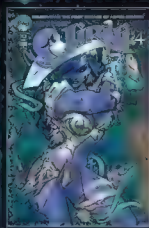
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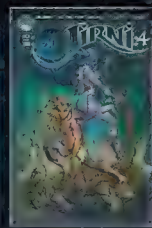




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Four big country

Jirni created by J.T. Krul

Written by **J.T. KRUL** • Pencils by **PAOLO PANTALENA**
Colors by **BRETT SMITH** • Letters by **JOSH REED**

After helping Nylaris reconcile with her people, the Dorian tribe, in the city of Breese, however, her own personal journey to find her mother, the queen, continues. Her last path to freeing her and saving the kingdom of Jirni is threatened by Torsathal's deadly weapons, the ever powerful D'Jinn, Anjaha...

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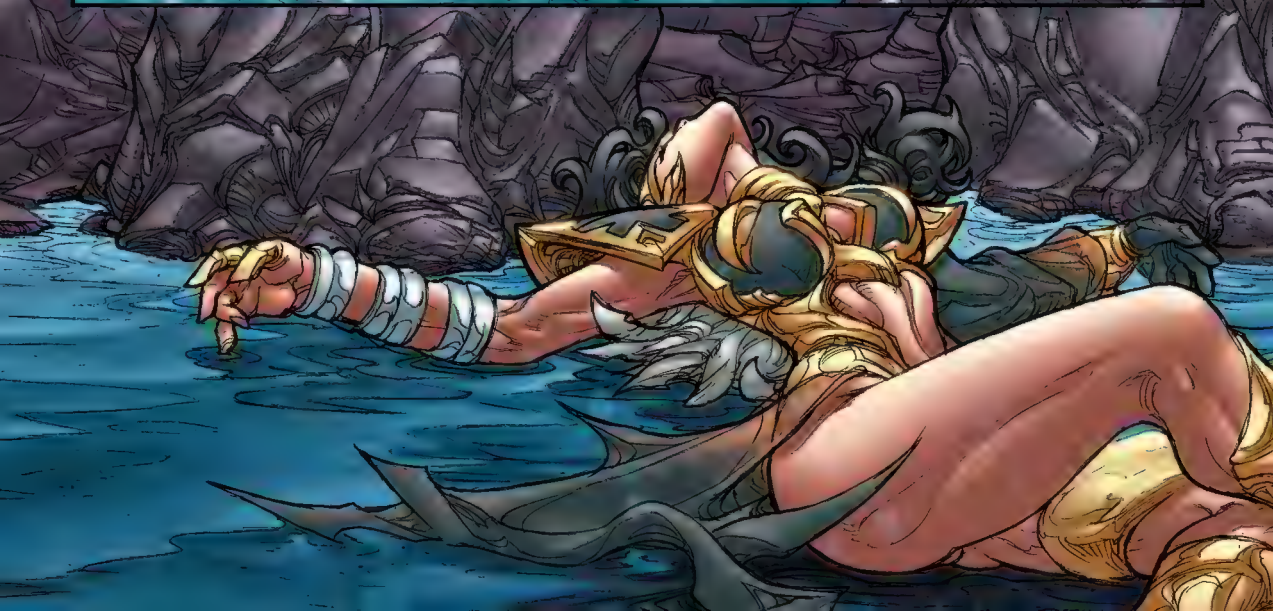
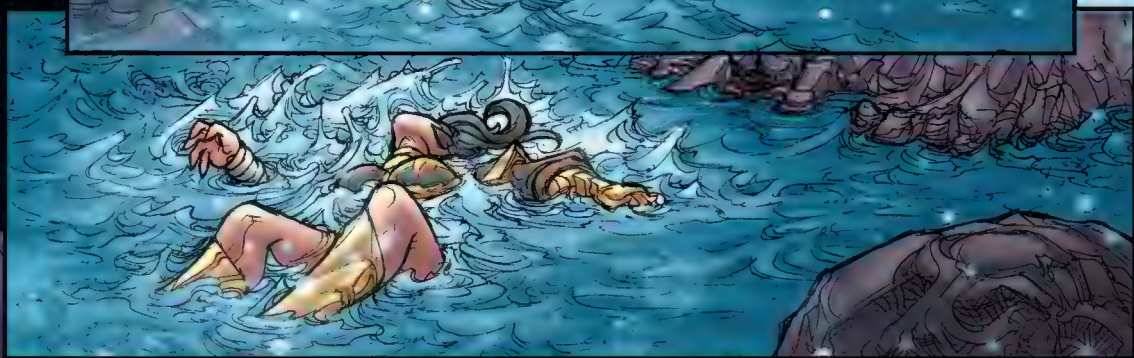
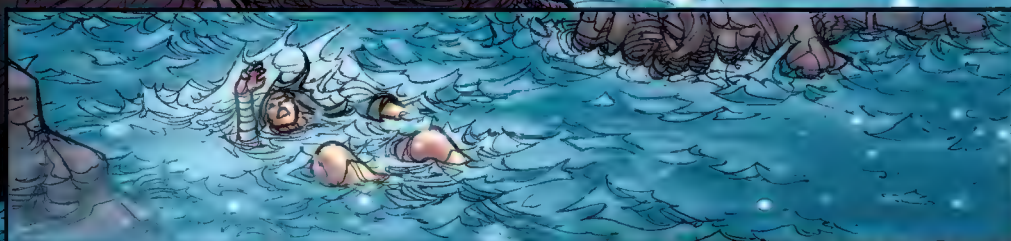
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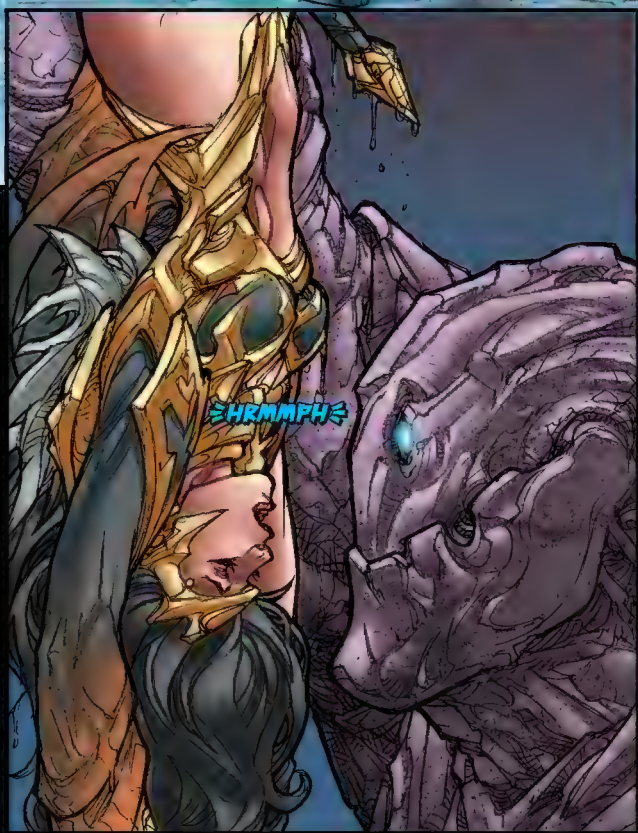
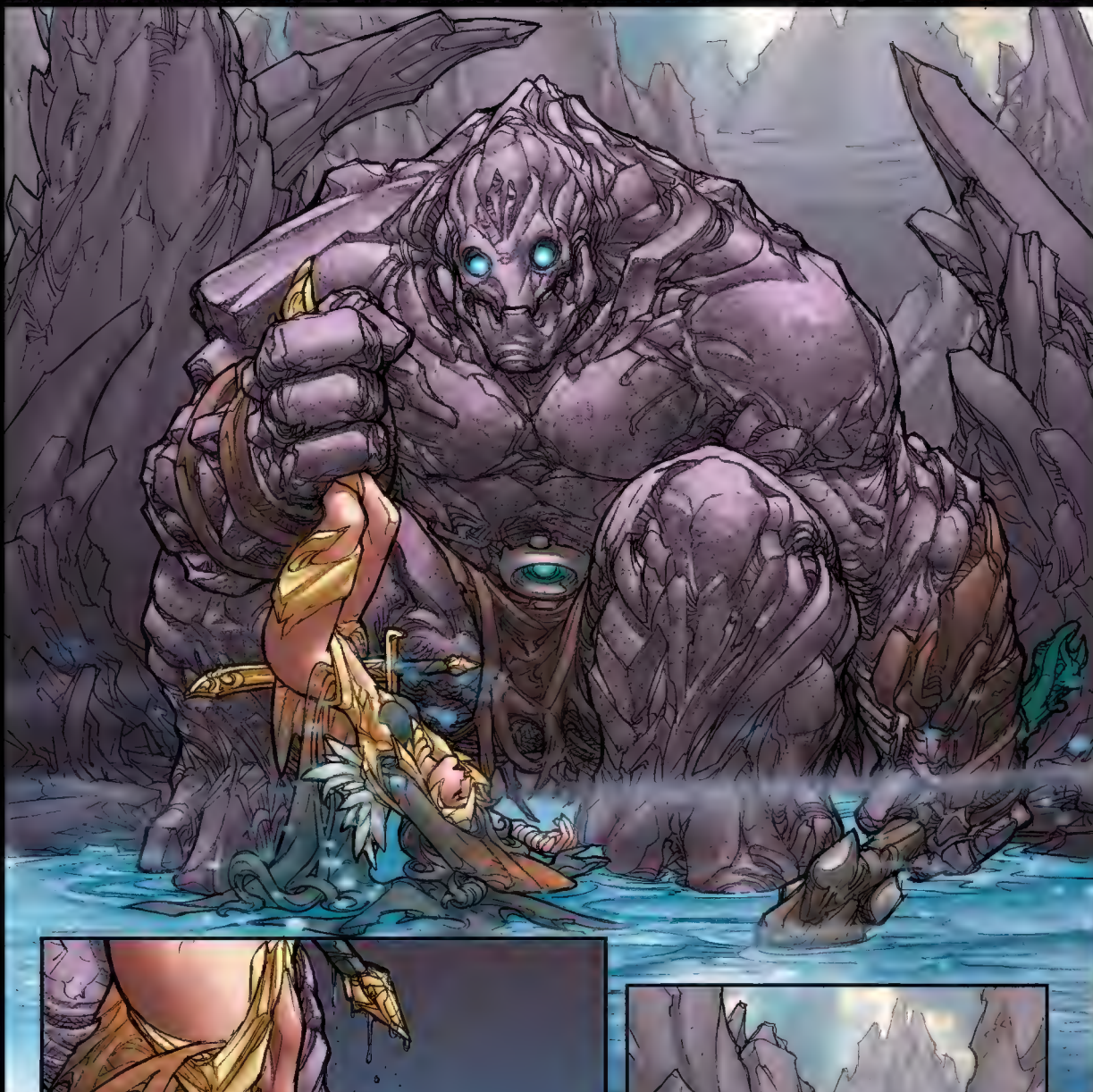
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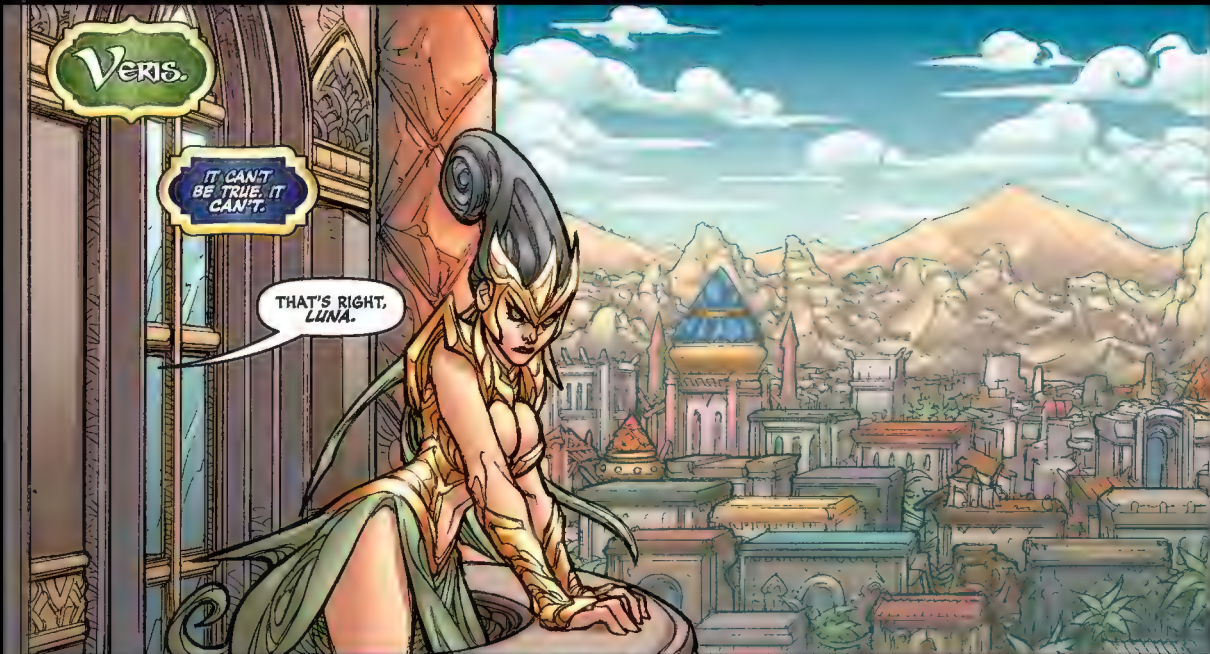
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MIGARA.









Veris.

IT CAN'T
BE TRUE. IT
CAN'T.

THAT'S RIGHT,
LUNA.



SHE'S DEAD.
YOUR PRECIOUS
DAUGHTER.

BUT DON'T
BURN ME WITH
YOUR HATEFUL
EYES. ANJAH'S
HAND DEALT
THE FATAL
BLOW.



I TOLD
HIM TO BRING
ARA TO ME.
SO MUCH
FOR OBEYING MY
COMMANDS.



YOU SPENT
YOUR WHOLE
LIFE PROTECTING
HER. ONLY TO HAVE
HER DIE TRYING TO
SAVE YOU. FATE
CAN BE CRUEL.

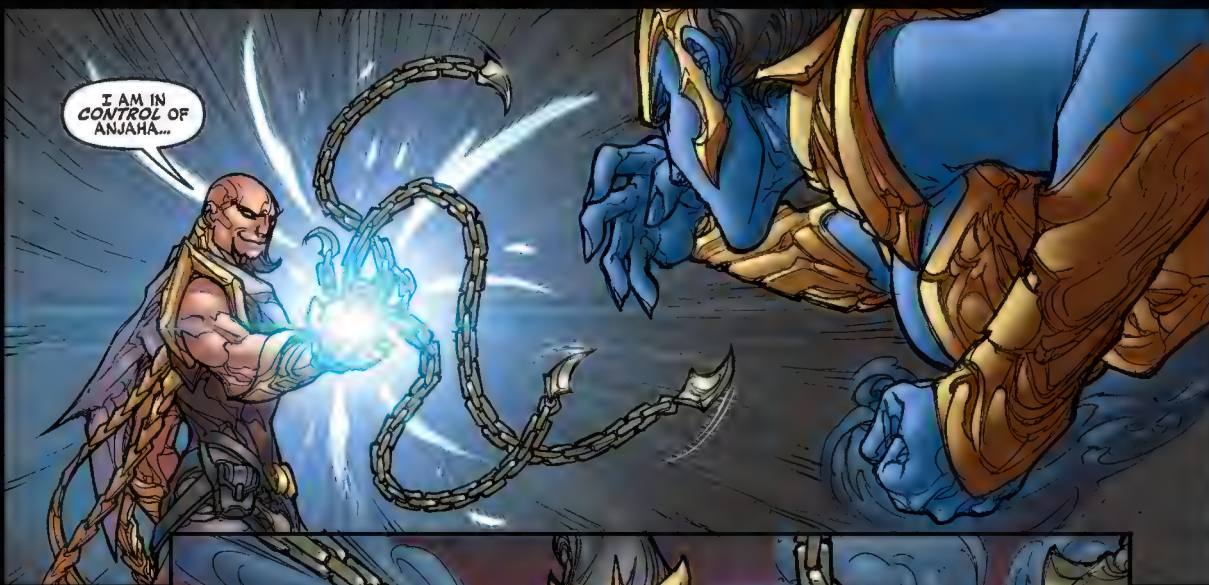
ANJAH
DESERVES TO
BE PUNISHED. I
WILL FORBID HIM TO
FIGHT BACK. HAVE
YOUR REVENGE ANY
WAY YOU DESIRE,
LUNA.



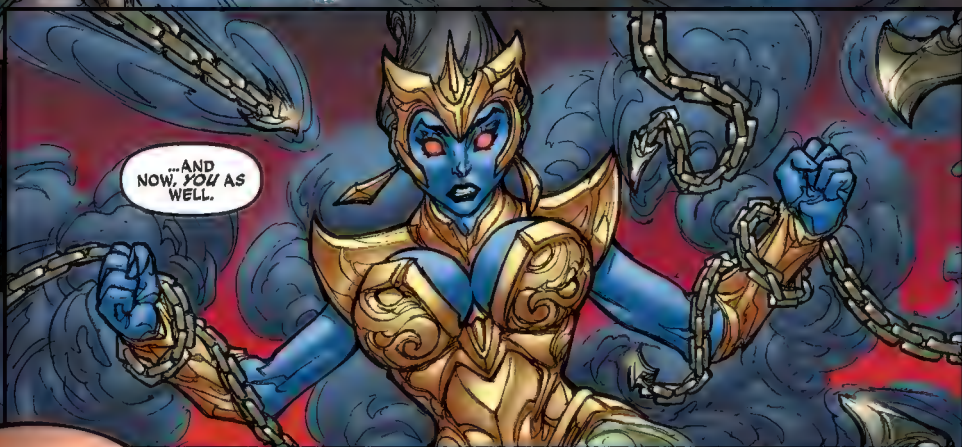
DON'T THINK
OF IT AS DOING MY
WILL. THIS IS A WISH
I GRANT YOU.

DO IT
FOR ARA.





I AM IN
CONTROL OF
ANJAH...



...AND
NOW, YOU AS
WELL.



NNNNN...!

TOLD YOU,
DIDN'T IT? IT WAS
ONLY A MATTER OF
TIME. EVERY D'JINN HAS
THEIR BREAKING
POINT.

I AM SORRY,
MY SWEET ARA.
PERHAPS, IT IS BEST
THAT YOU ARE
GONE.

SO THAT
YOU CANNOT SEE
WHAT I AM.

A SLAVE.

MY HEAD SPINS. VISIONS OF
A GREAT FALL AND BEING
PLUNGED INTO DARKNESS. I CAN
STILL HEAR THE ROAR OF THE
RIVER THUNDERING IN MY HEAD.

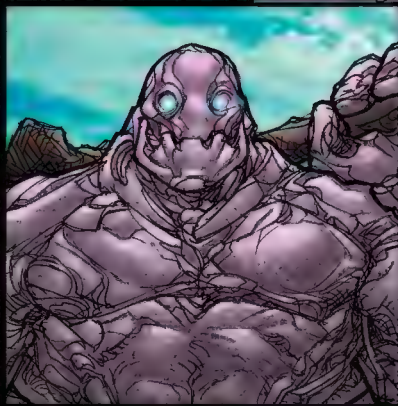
I AM ALIVE.

THOUGH
NOT OUT OF
DANGER.

BUT I
AM FAR FROM
SOME DAMSEL
IN DISTRESS.



OKAY, BIG
FELLA. LET'S
DO THIS.



I KNOW
YOU AREN'T
SCARED
OF ME.

BUT HOW
ABOUT I LET
YOU MAKE THE
FIRST MOVE,
ANYWAY.



SO...
NOT WHAT I WAS
EXPECTING.



FINE.
WE'LL CALL IT
A DRAW.



GOR
NOS, WETE
THIM.

SORRY.
YOU HAD YOUR
CHANCE.



NE
KUN, LOM
PUNNY.

WHAT WAS
THAT?



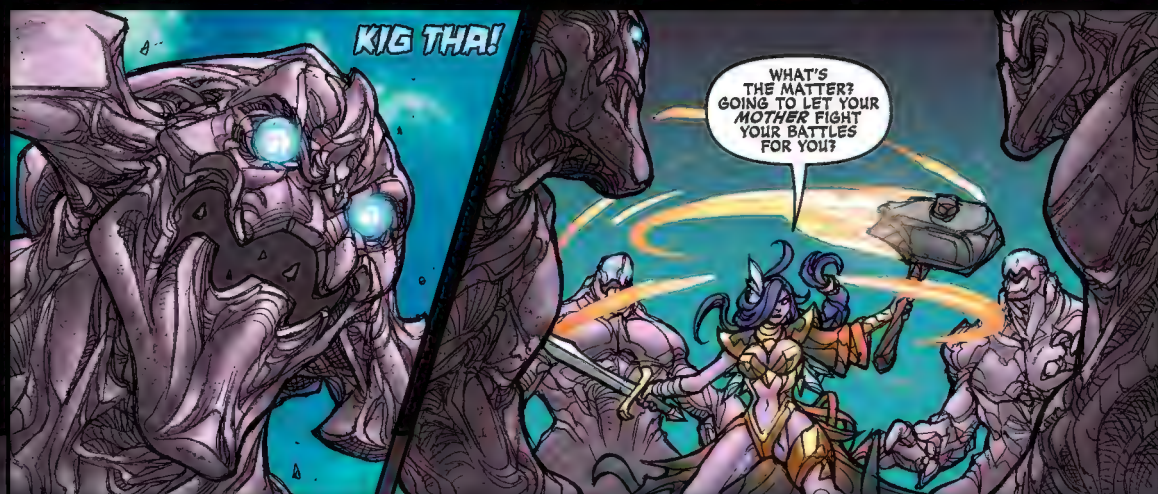
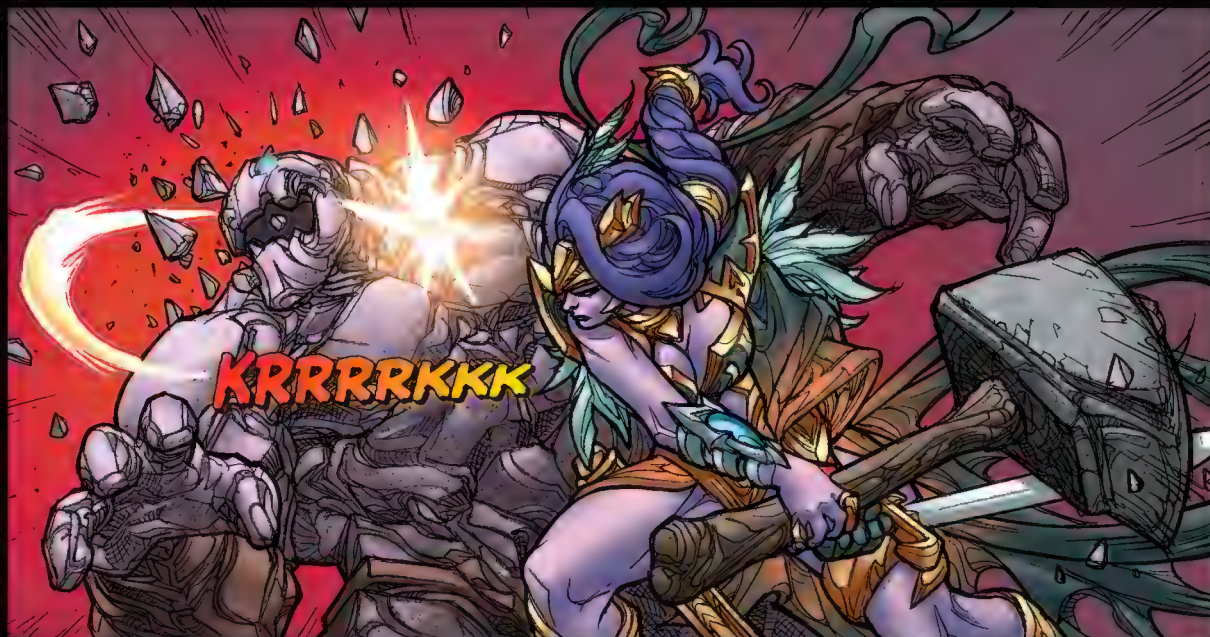
I SEE.

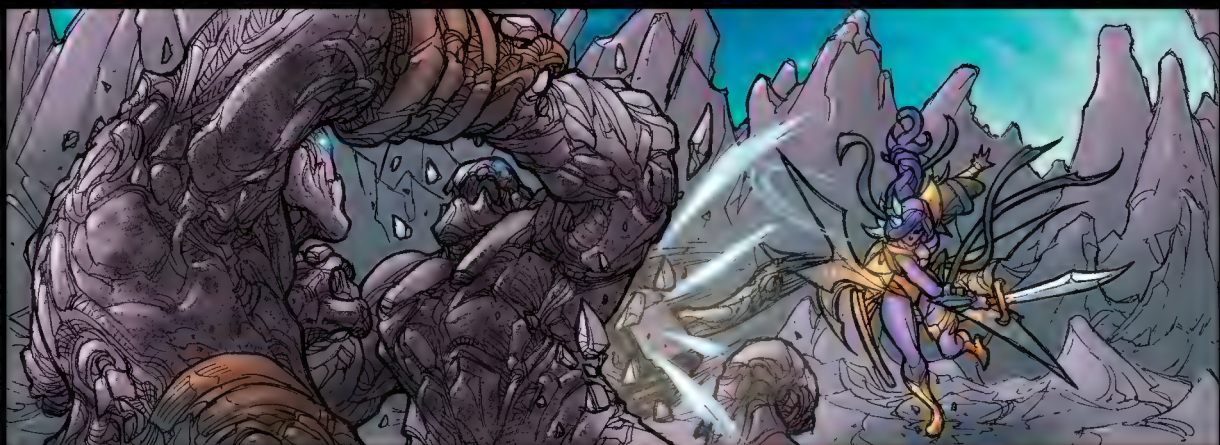


THE
MOTHER.

FO WAK!









HOR NA
WEET!

KRRROOOONNN



WHAT NOW?

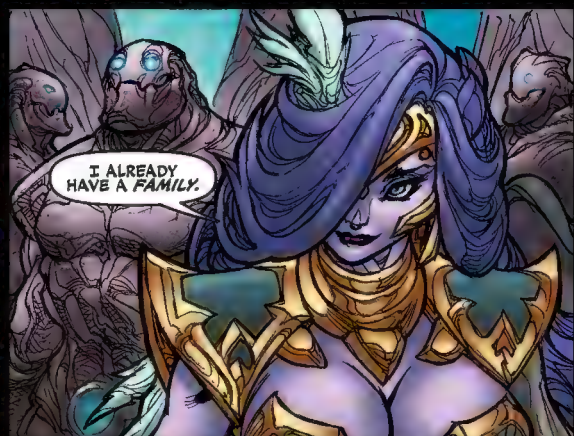


REL TOR
PEY. NA KIL
PA FEN.



OH, I GET
IT. MOTHER DOESN'T
LIKE THE COMPETITION.
SHE WANTS TO KEEP
HER BOYS TO
HERSELF.

TELL HER
SHE NEED NOT
WORRY.



I ALREADY
HAVE A FAMILY.

Veris.

AND I
MEAN TO GET
IT BACK.

DESCRIBING
THE CITY I SAW IN MY
VISIONS TO STRANGERS
DURING MY TRAVELS-- THEY
ALL POINTED ME IN THE
SAME DIRECTION.

VERIS: THE
GREAT CITY AT
THE EDGE OF
THE WORLD.

HERE. THIS IS WHERE
MY MOTHER HAS BEEN
TAKEN. I CAN FEEL IT.

THIS
WAY I SAW
HIM!

WE'LL STRING
HIM UP BY HIS
BALLS WHEN WE
CATCH HIM.

OUCH.



THEY
MAKE IT SOUND
SO APPEALING,
DON'T THEY?

A HEAVY PRICE
FOR A NIBBLE OF
FOOD. PERHAPS YOU
SHOULD TRY *BUYING*
IT NEXT TIME.

WHAT MAKES
YOU ASSUME I
STOLE IT?



AN *HONEST*
MAN DOES NOT
HIDE.

OBSOLETELY, YOU
ARE NOT FROM AROUND
HERE. IN VERIS, *GUILT*
MATTERS LITTLE.



SO, YOU
ARE *INNOCENT*
THEN?

I WOULDN'T
SAY THAT.

WHAT
WORD WOULD
YOU USE?

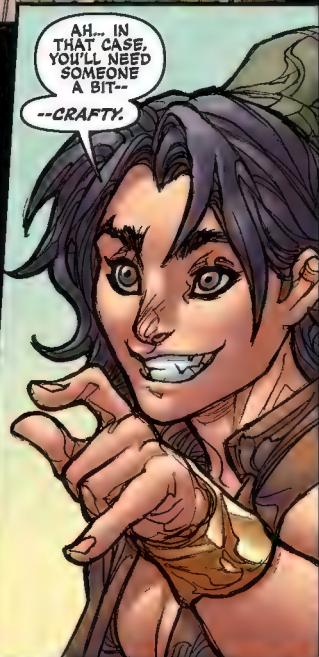
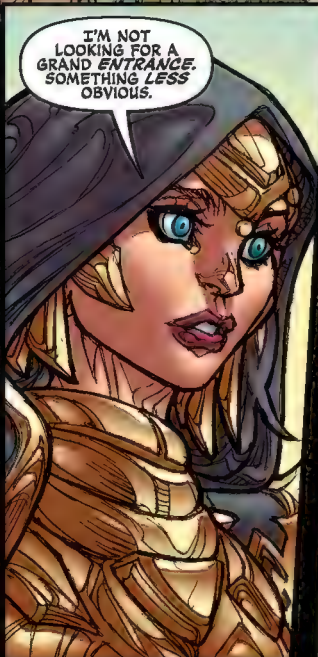
CRAFTY.



WHAT
BRINGS YOU TO
THE CITY?

PERHAPS I
AM JUST PASSING
THROUGH?

HARDLY.
THERE IS *NOTHING*
BEYOND VERIS EXCEPT
ENDLESS DESERT,
MY DEAR.





SO MANY
ARE TAKEN BY
THE MAJESTY OF
THE TOWERING
STRUCTURE.



THEY NEVER THINK
ABOUT LOOKING
UNDERNEATH.

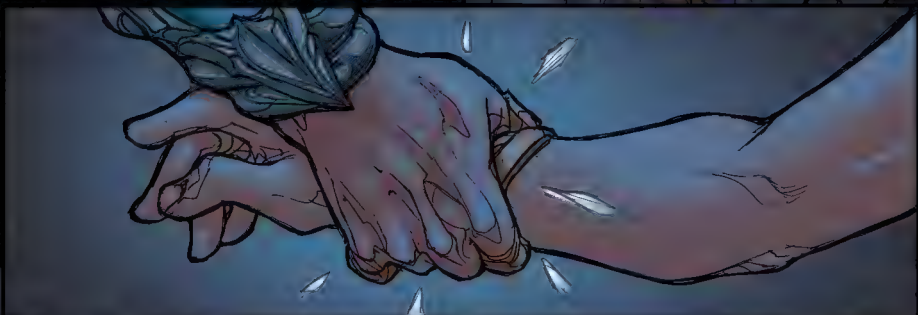
YOU SURE
DO KNOW YOUR
WAY AROUND,
NINDAR.

I'VE LIVED
HERE MY WHOLE
LIFE. TO *SURVIVE*, I
HAD TO LEARN TO PAY
ATTENTION TO THE
DETAILS.



WHOA!

CCRRUUMMBLE



YOU WERE
SAYING?

THE DETAILS, RIGHT.
TAKE *YOU* FOR INSTANCE. THE
MOMENT I SAW YOU...

...I KNEW
THERE WAS SOMETHING
ABOUT YOU.

EVER
HEAR THE
EXPRESSION
A *DIAMOND*
IN THE
ROUGH?



MY ARMBAND!

WELL, THIS
TRINKET OF YOURS
MAY NOT HAVE ANY
DIAMONDS--



--BUT I'M
SURE IT WILL
FETCH QUITE
A BIT OF
GOLD.

TO BE CONTINUED.

#5
COVER A

10
FOR
10

J.T. KRUL • DAULO PANTALENA
BRETT SMITH • JOSH REED



IRNI



#5 **10**
FOR
10

COVER B

J.C. KREL • DAOLU PANTALENA
BRETT SMITH • JOSH REED



Jirni





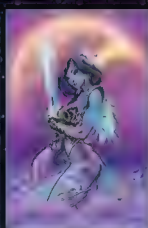
Cover Editor
BY **PAOLO PANTALENA**
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Five end of the road

Jirni created by J. T. Krul
Illustrated by J.T. KRUL • Pencils by PAOLO PANTALENA
Colors by BRETT SMITH, WES HARTMAN • Letters by JOSH REED

In Migasa, Ara is rescued by a hulking rock creature, and soon must defend herself from their chiseled might, along with their very large matriarch. Managing to survive, Ara continues on to the city of Veris in search of her own mother, but is quickly robbed of her armband by a thief named Nindar. Meanwhile, Tonithal relishes in Lunas distraught of the alleged death of her daughter, and when she unleashes her powers as a D'Jinn, he shows both her and Anjaha what true power is after enslaving them...

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JIRNI™ Vol. 1 Issue 5

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When my mother gave me my armband as a birthday present, she said it would always protect me.

Unfortunately for this thief...

KRRKKK

...she didn't say anything about it protecting anyone else.

M-MY HAND!

NOW, TELL ME, NINDAR-- IS THIS TRULY A SECRET WAY INTO THE PALACE? OR MERELY MORE BILE FROM YOUR LYING LIPS!

IT'S A WAY IN--

SOMEWHERE
WITHIN THESE WALLS, MY
MOTHER IS BEING HELD
PRISONER.

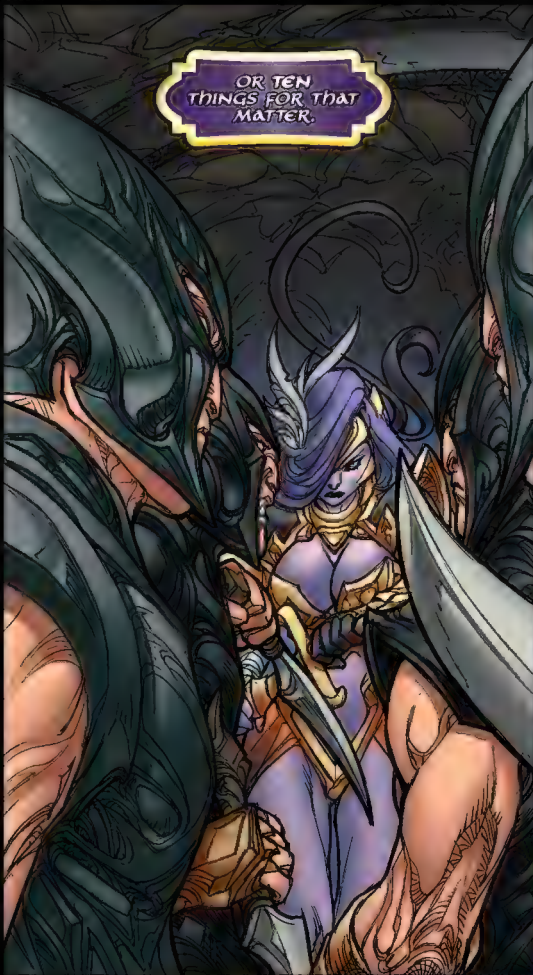
SINCE EMBARKING
ON MY QUEST TO FIND
HER, I'VE NEVER BEEN
SO CLOSE.

--BUT
FAR FROM
SECRET.

I SEE--
A TRAP,
CRAFTY
INDEED,
NINDAR.

I'M NOT ABOUT
TO LET ANYTHING
STAND IN MY WAY.





OR TEN
THINGS FOR THAT
MATTER.

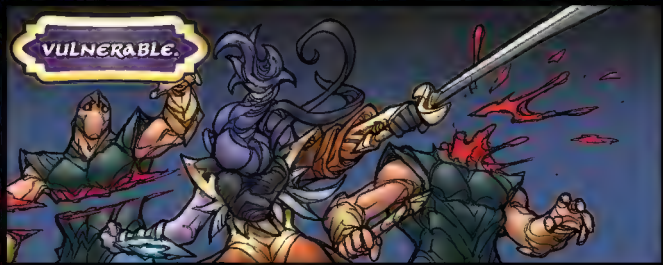


GAWWG!

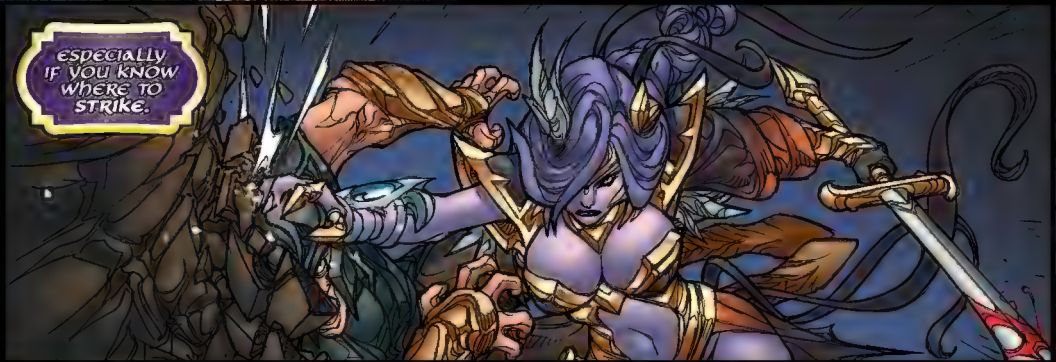
THEIR
ARMOR IS
THICK, BUT
BULKY.



IT MAKES
THEM SLOW.



VULNERABLE.



ESPECIALLY
IF YOU KNOW
WHERE TO
STRIKE.



NNNN...
NNNN...

STOP
WHIMPERING
LIKE A CHILD,
NINDAR.

AS YOU CAN
SEE, I COULD HAVE
CRUSHED MORE THAN
YOUR HAND.



INSIDE THE
PALACE OF
VERIS.

MY LORD...
THE ASSASSIN-- SHE
OVERWHELMED US.

THIS WOMAN
DEFEATED YOU?
ALL OF YOU?

SH-SHE IS
UNLIKE ANY WOMAN, MY
LORD. OR WARRIOR. SHE IS
LIKE THE SORCERER'S
BEAST.



TORINTHAL!
YOU BROUGHT THIS
BLOODSHED TO
MY PALACE!

ALERT MY
ARMY. I WANT HER
FOUND! BRING ME HER
HEAD! THEN YOU WILL
ANSWER FOR THIS,
TORINTHAL.

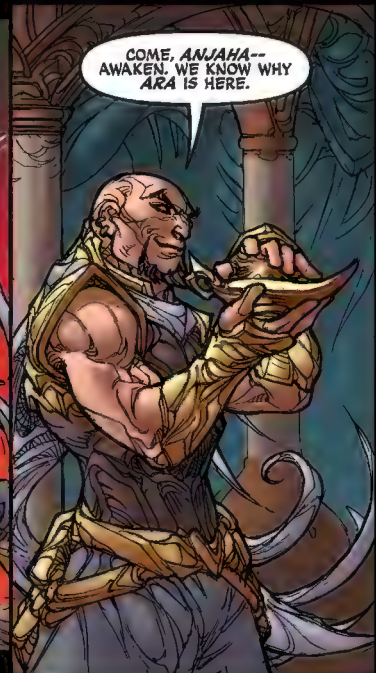
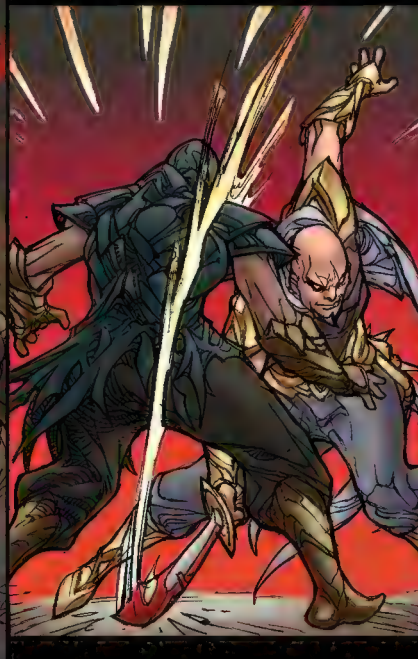
DESSIRN,
I GROW TIRED OF
YOUR FEEBLE SHRIEKING
AND YOUR PETTY,
LITTLE KINGDOM.



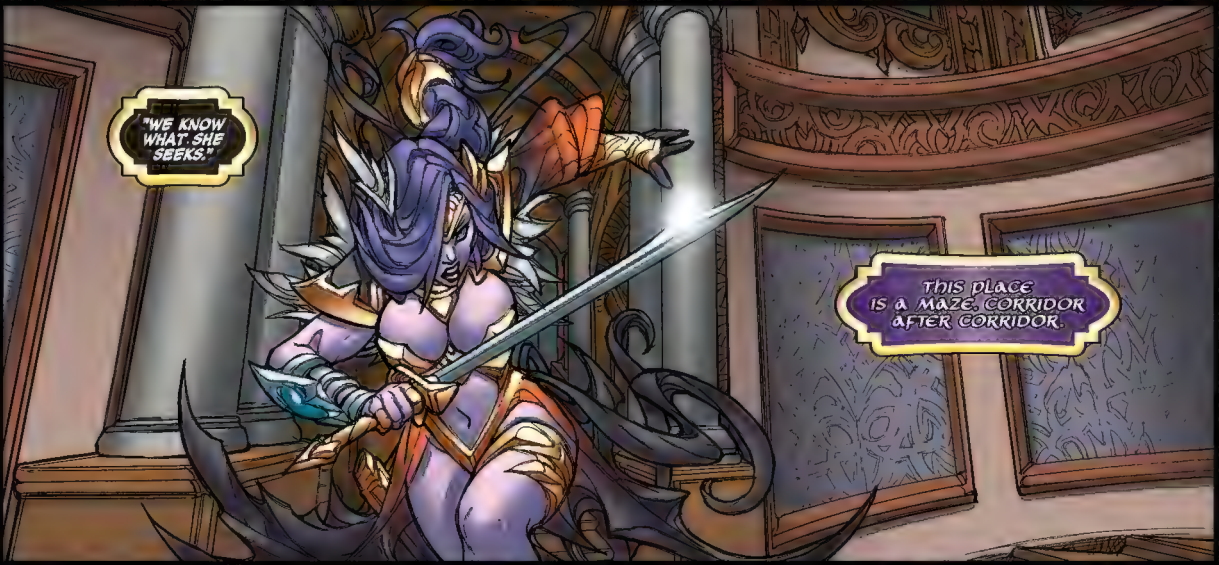
I BELIEVE IT'S
TIME FOR US TO BE
ON OUR WAY.

GAAAAHHH...

MY LORD!



COME, ANJAH--
AWAKEN. WE KNOW WHY
ARA IS HERE.

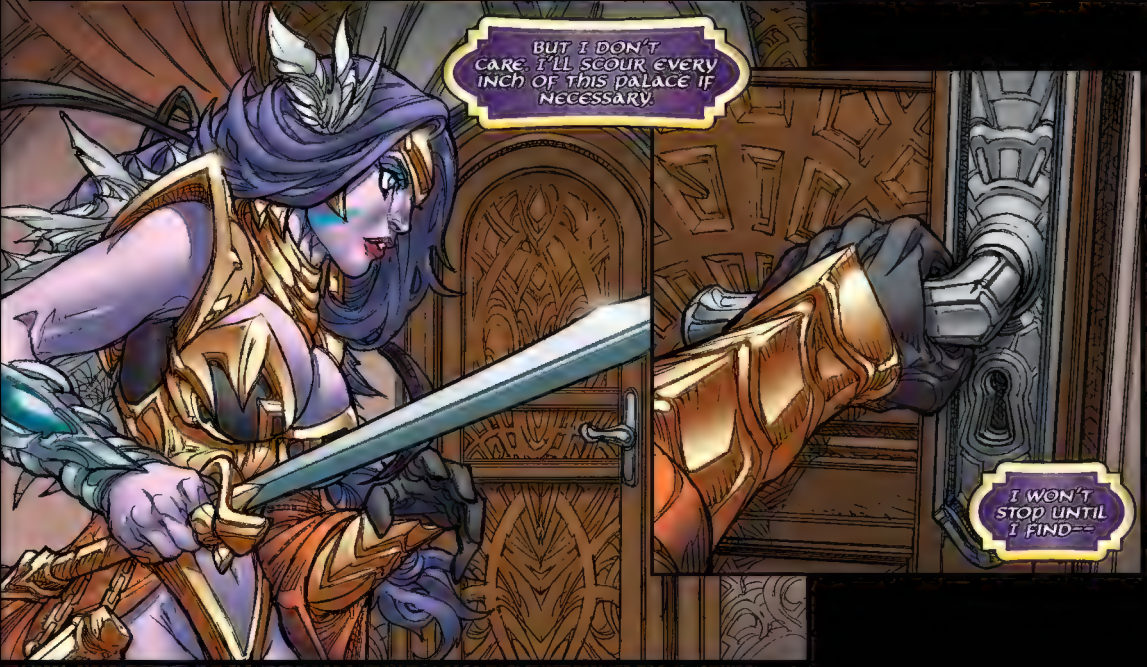


"WE KNOW
WHAT SHE
SEEKS."

THIS PLACE
IS A MAZE. CORRIDOR
AFTER CORRIDOR.



OBSTACLE AFTER
OBSTACLE.



BUT I DON'T
CARE. I'LL SCOUR EVERY
INCH OF THIS PALACE IF
NECESSARY.

I WON'T
STOP UNTIL
I FIND--



MOTHER!

ARA?



YOU'RE
ALIVE. I KNEW IT. I
KNEW YOU COULDN'T
BE DEAD.

I FEARED THE
SAME ABOUT YOU,
MY CHILD.



MOTHER?
YOUR SKIN? YOU LOOK
JUST LIKE TORINTHAL'S
DEMON.

WHAT ARE
YOU? WHAT
AM I?



OVER THE
AGES, WE HAVE
BEEN KNOWN BY
DIFFERENT NAMES.
MOST HERE CALL
US D'UINN.

BUT THIS
IS NOT OUR
WORLD.



I COME FROM
ALLAYON. IT IS HARD
TO DESCRIBE, FOR IT IS
UNLIKE ANYTHING IN
THIS REALM.

A PLACE OF WONDER AND PEACE,
WHERE OUR SPIRITS SHINE— ROAMING
FREE, UNHINDERED BY THE TRAPPINGS
AND CHALLENGES FOUND HERE.

BUT THERE ARE
RULES— AND WHEN
THEY ARE BROKEN, THOSE
GUILTY MUST PAY THE
ULTIMATE PRICE.

IMPRISONMENT
WITHIN A PHYSICAL
OBJECT.

BANISHMENT
FROM OUR WORLD.



SERVITUDE TO
WHOMEVER MAY POSSESS
OUR VESSEL.

WHEN I WAS
CAST OUT, IT WAS YOUR
GRANDFATHER THAT DISCOVERED
ME. I SERVED HIM WITH HONOR, AND
WHEN YOUR FATHER WAS BORN, I
STOOD BESIDE HIM AS HE GREW
INTO THE KING YOU KNOW.

I WAS NO
LONGER BOUND
BY SERVITUDE. I
WAS BOUND BY
LOVE.

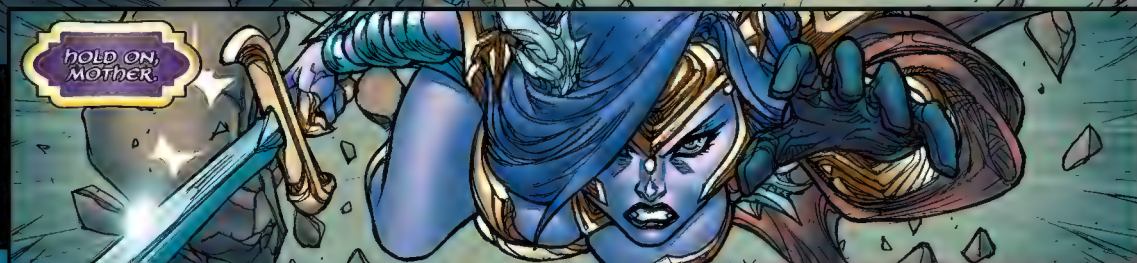
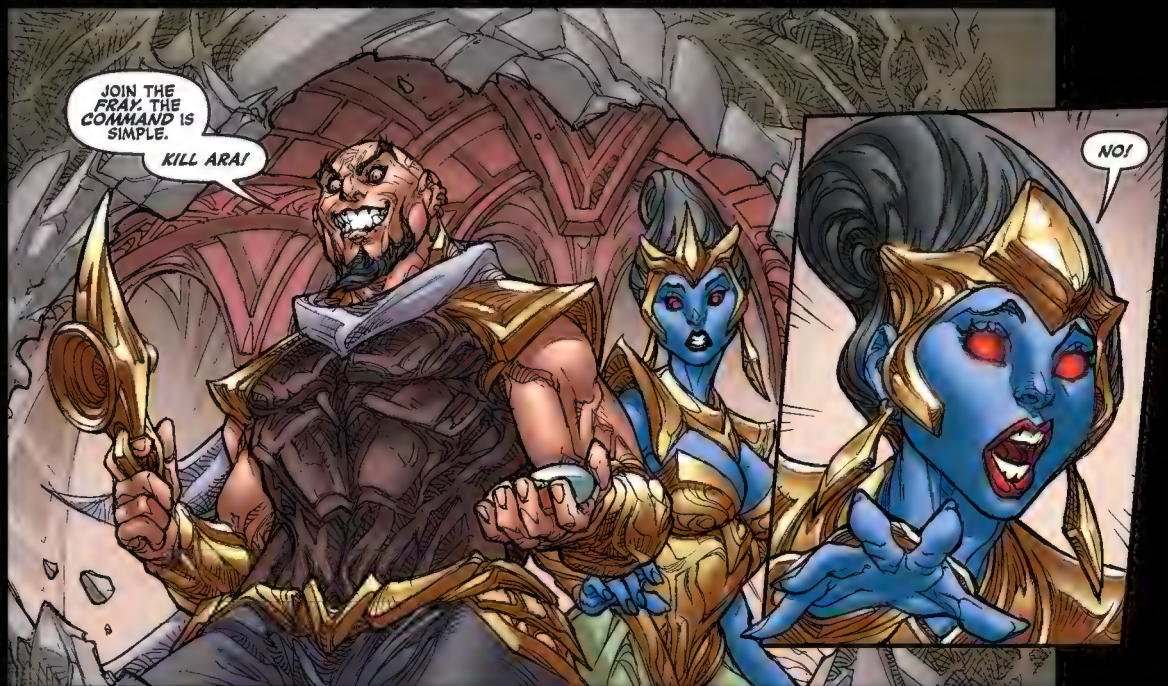
A LOVE
THAT CREATED
YOU.

ARA, I AM
TRAPPED BY WHOEVER
CONTROLS MY VESSEL. BUT
YOU— YOU ARE DIFFERENT
FROM ALL OTHER
D'JINN.

YOU ARE
FREE.









LEAVE HER BE,
BASTARD!

KRRRSHH



WHAT
DID YOU
DO???



THE LAMP... IT
IS DESTROYED.



ARA, YOU
BROKE THAT WHICH
CANNOT BE BROKEN
IN THIS REALM.



THE LAMP IS
YOURS NO MORE,
TORITHAL. AND
NEITHER IS
AAWAHA.

I CANNOT
IMAGINE HOW HE
WILL PAY YOU BACK
FOR ENSLAVING
HIM.



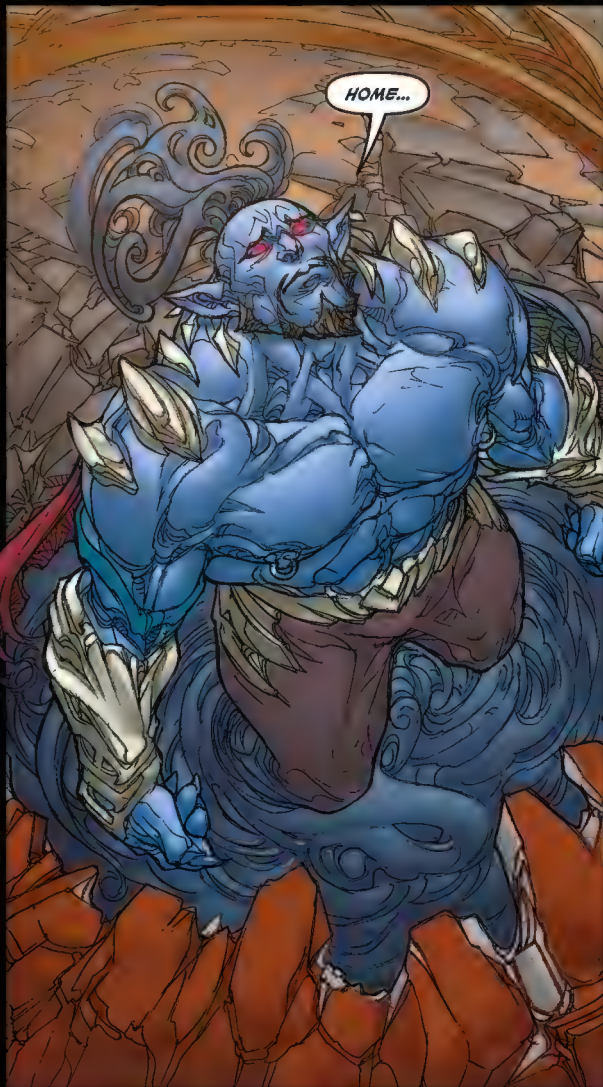
BUT I AM
LOOKING FORWARD
TO WATCHING IT.



FREE. I.
AM. FREE.

WHERE ARE
YOU GOING?!

WHAT ABOUT
TORINTHAL?!



HOME...



THE VESSEL
IS WHAT *BINDS* US TO
THIS WORLD. DESTROY IT
AND WE RETURN TO
ALLAVON.

DON'T EXPECT
TO *SHARE* IN HIS
EXODUS.

YOU
STILL *BELONG*
TO ME.



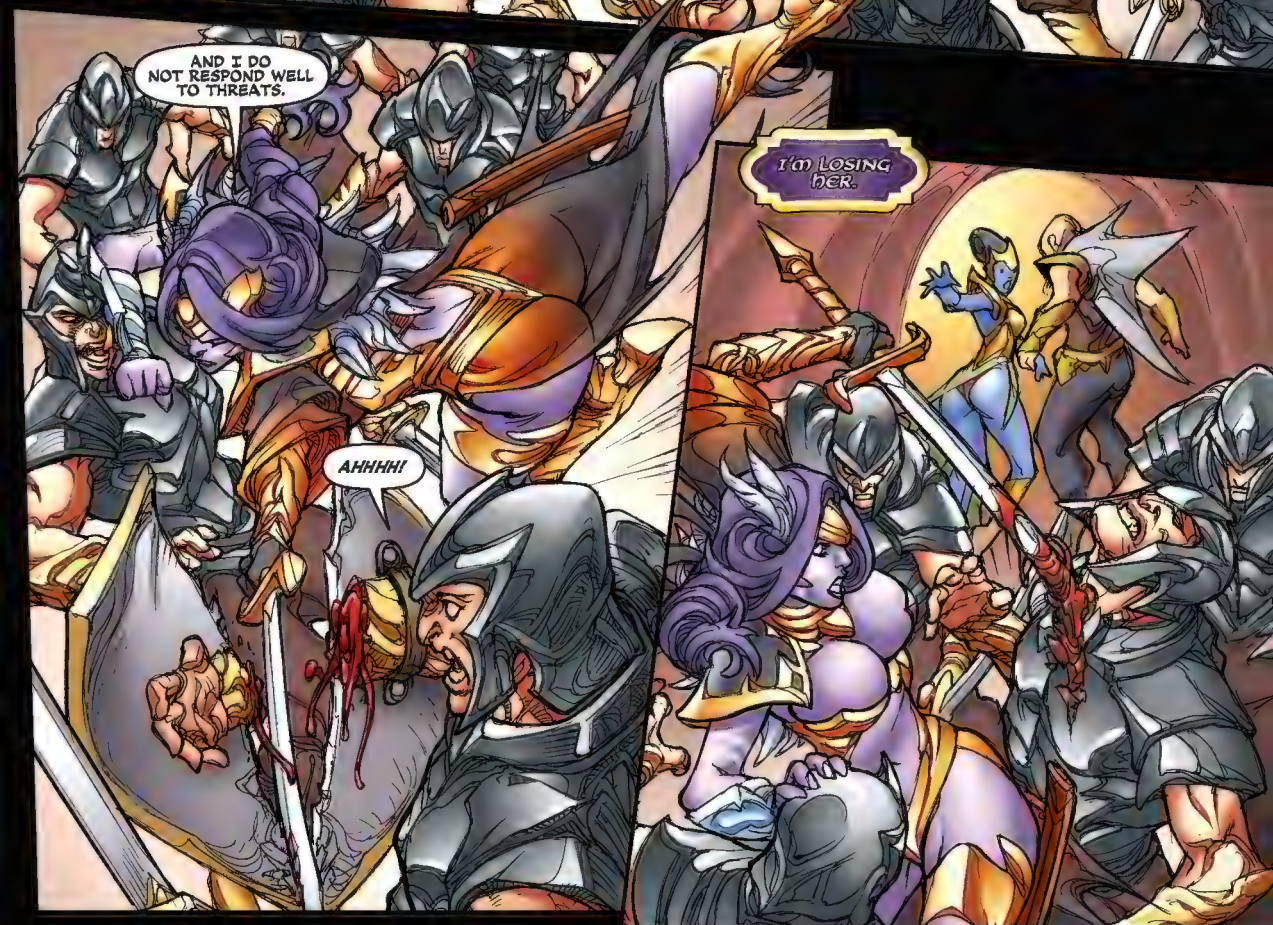
GUARDS!
BEHOLD! LORD
DESSIN'S
KILLER!



EVIL WITCH.

WE SHALL SEVER
YOUR LIMBS ONE BY
ONE-- IN THE NAME
OF DESSIRN.

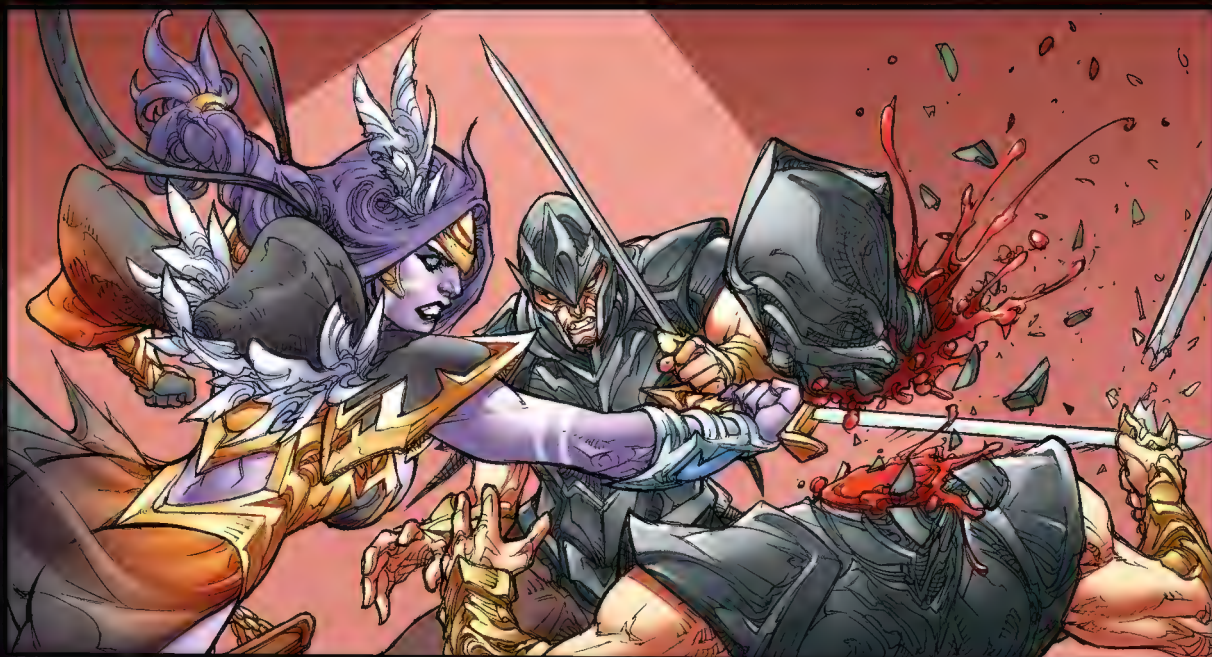
I DID
NOT KILL YOUR
LORD.



AND I DO
NOT RESPOND WELL
TO THREATS.

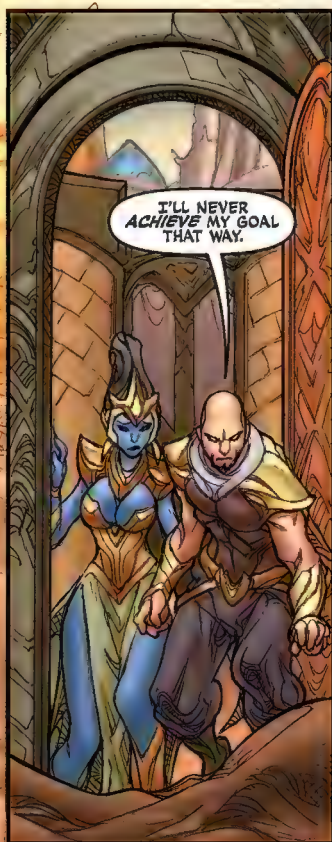
AAAAHHH!

I'm LOSING
HER.





THE PURPOSE
OF MY JOURNEY
WASN'T TO MERELY
EXCHANGE ONE
D'JINN FOR
ANOTHER.



I'LL NEVER
ACHIEVE MY GOAL
THAT WAY.



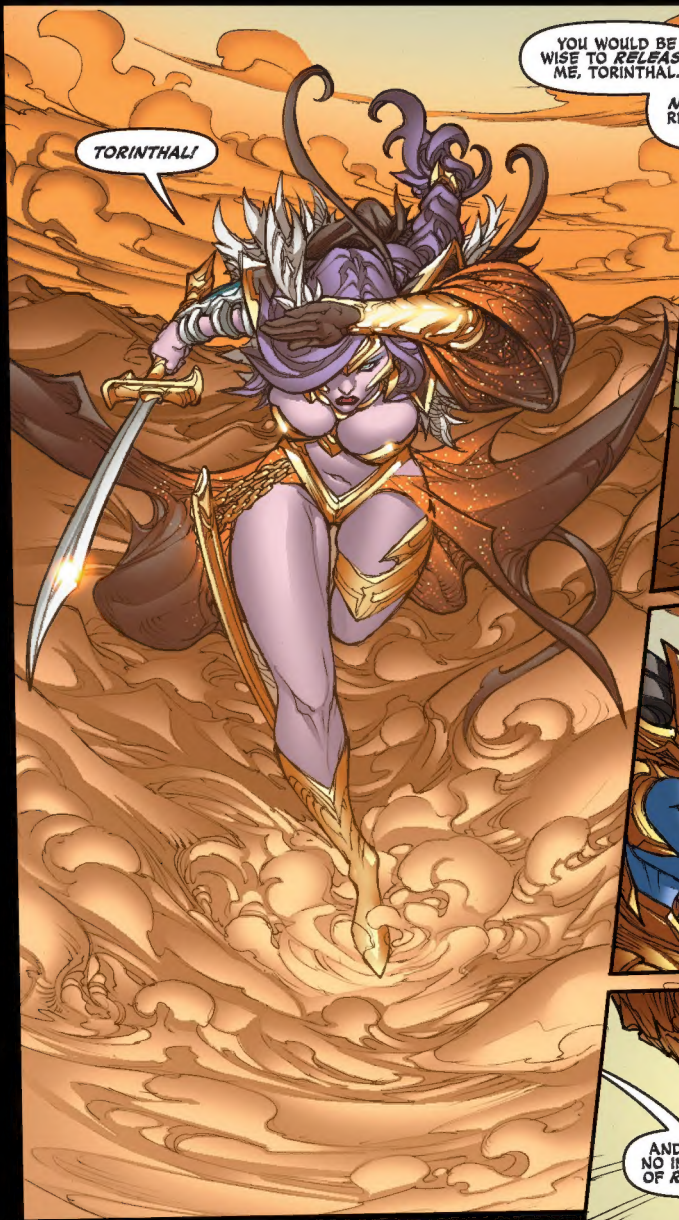
SHE
WILL FIND US,
TORINTHAL.

I WILL NOT
PROTECT YOU, EVEN
IF THE PAIN OF DEFIANCE
IS UNBEARABLE. THERE IS
NOTHING STANDING
BETWEEN YOU AND
HER, NOW.



I BEG TO
DIFFER.





TORINTHAL!

YOU WOULD BE WISE TO RELEASE ME, TORINTHAL.

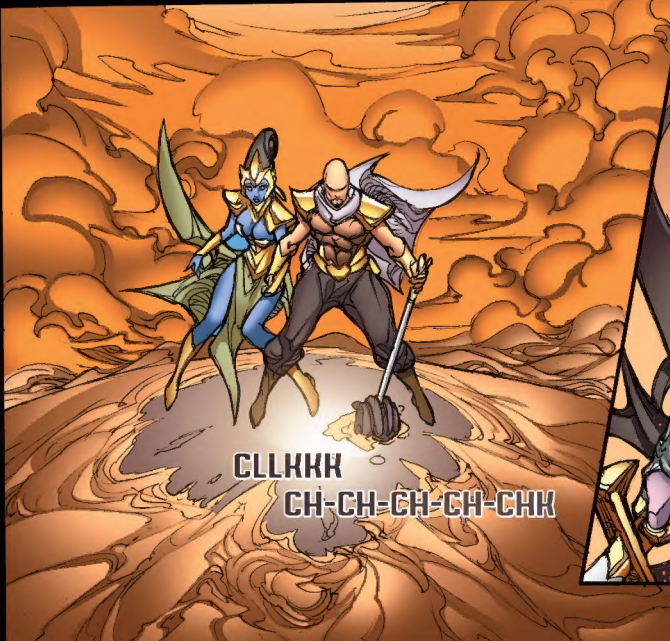
YOU HAVE NOWHERE TO RUN. NOWHERE TO HIDE.



YOUR DAUGHTER DOES NOT FRIGHTEN ME, LUNA.



AND I HAVE NO INTENTION OF RUNNING.



CLLKKK
CH-CH-CH-CH-CHK



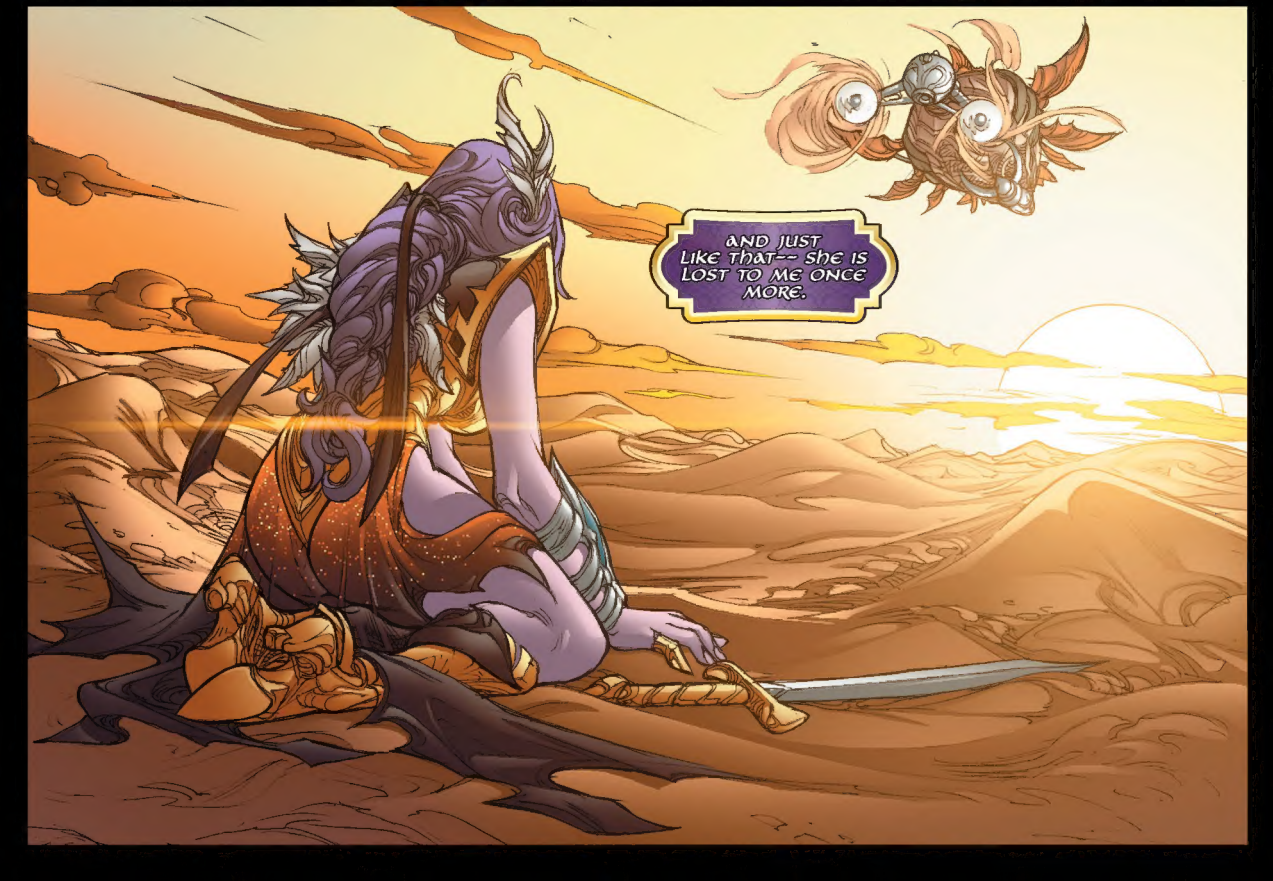
BY THE GODS...

WOOOSSSSHHH



WHAT
MANNER OF
SORCERY IS
THIS?

The top panel of the comic shows a large, mechanical, insect-like creature with a purple-skinned warrior in a desert. The creature has a large, round, metallic body with a central eye-like structure and several smaller, circular components. It has long, thin, metallic legs and a large, ornate, reddish-brown wing or appendage. The warrior is a purple-skinned figure with long, flowing purple hair, wearing a gold and purple outfit. She is holding a sword and looking up at the creature with a concerned expression. The background is a desert landscape with orange and yellow tones, suggesting a sunset or sunrise.



The bottom panel of the comic shows the purple-skinned warrior from the top panel, now lying on the ground in a desert landscape. She is looking up at a small, mechanical, insect-like creature that is flying away. The creature is smaller than the one in the top panel, but it has the same basic design. The warrior is holding a sword and looking up at the creature with a sad expression. The background is a desert landscape with orange and yellow tones, suggesting a sunset or sunrise.

AND JUST
LIKE THAT-- SHE IS
LOST TO ME ONCE
MORE.



LOOKING BACK,
I SEE ALL THAT I HAVE
DISCOVERED.



AN ENTIRE
WORLD BEYOND
MY KINGDOM OF
JANNA.



THE KURKIAN
MOUNTAINS.

THE FORESTS
OF TAGARON.

THE KILKAN
PLAINS.

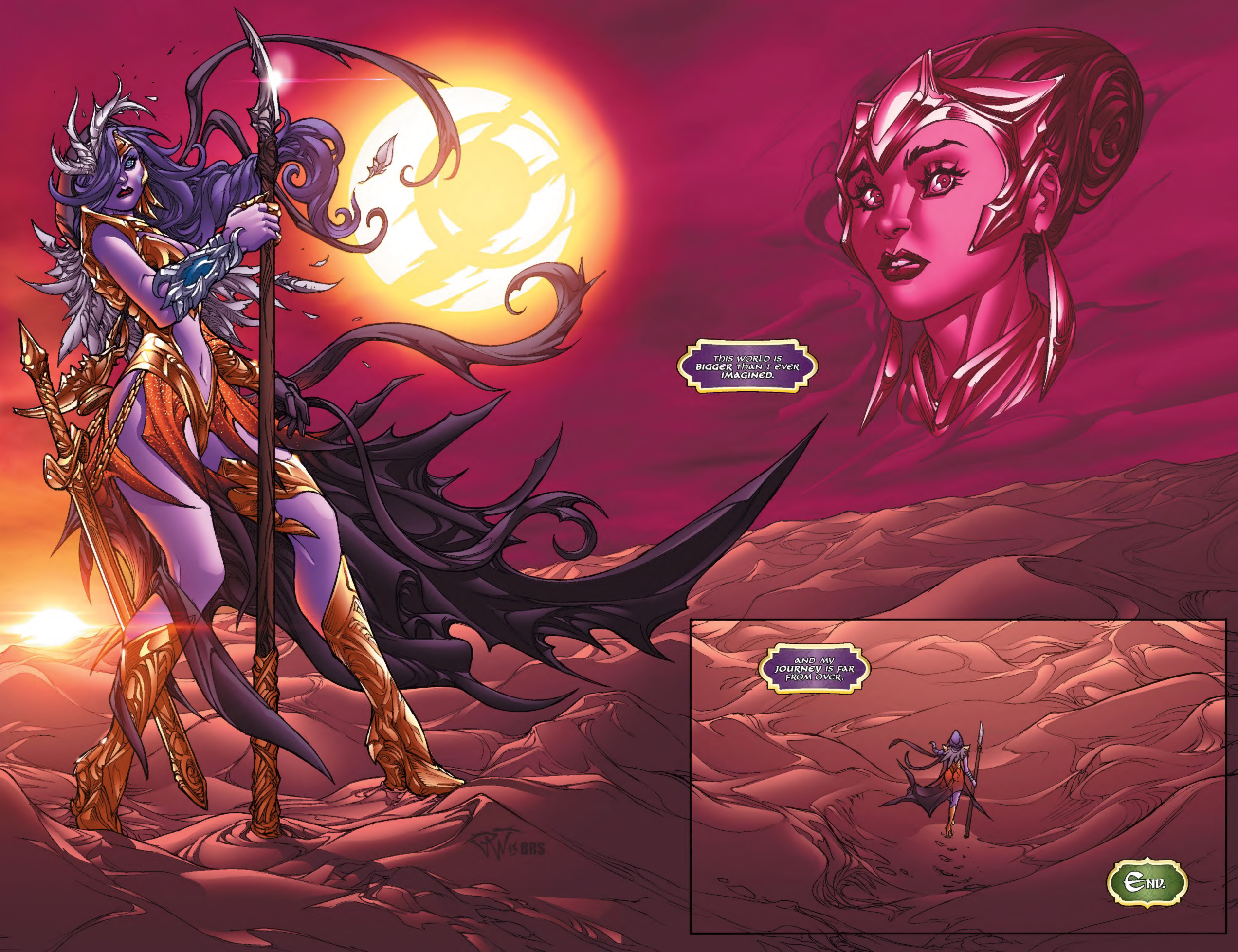
THE SONORI
DESERT.

MIGARA.

WHEN I REACHED
VERIS, I THOUGHT THAT I
HAD REACHED THE END--
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.



I WAS
WRONG.



THIS WORLD IS
BIGGER THAN I EVER
IMAGINED.

AND MY
JOURNEY IS FAR
FROM OVER.

END.